

Tamil Tiger leaders named suspects in Gandhi killing

NEW DELHI (AP) — An Indian court Friday named the commander and the intelligence chief of the Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger rebels as suspects in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The court in Madras, in the south state of Tamil Nadu, ordered the two men to surrender and appear in court by Feb. 28, Press Trust of India reported. The suspects are Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers for Tamil Eelam, and Pottu Amman, the Tigers' intelligence chief. The Sri Lankan separatist army is among the fiercest and best-trained guerrilla forces in the world. Press Trust said the court was acting on a report by investigators probing the case. The two men are believed to be in rebel-controlled territory in northern Sri Lanka, the base for the Tigers' war for an independent Tamil homeland in the Sinhalese-majority island nation. They are unlikely to answer the court summons.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

King Hassan urges U.N. to solve Mideast problems

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — King Hassan II of Morocco, speaking Friday at the summit of Security Council leaders, asked the organization to redouble its efforts to work on Mideast problems. Wearing a hooded white robe, the monarch called on "the international community to redouble its efforts to resolve the problems of the Middle East." Saying the Arab World "has lived a half century of tragedy," he asked the United Nations to recognize the national aspirations of the Palestinians and the right of all Palestinians to return to their homeland. Referring to Palestinian claims to Jerusalem, which he referred to by its Arabic name Al Quds Al Sharif, he urged "an equitable and just solution to the fate of the holy city." The Palestinians want Arab east Jerusalem, which Israel occupied and annexed in the 1967 Middle East war, to be the capital of a future Palestinian state.

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Egypt wants Jerusalem on peace agenda

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said on Friday Middle East peace talks should discuss the Arab-Israeli dispute over the holy city of Jerusalem. "It is our opinion that the issue of Jerusalem should be discussed at the multilateral and bilateral talks," Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said.

Saudi Arabia bans the Economist

LONDON (AP) — Saudi Arabia has banned the Economist magazine following a report which alleged that some Muslims considered the Saudi monarchy un-Islamic, the magazine said Friday. If past bans are a guide, the Economist said, the open-ended ban could keep the magazine out of Saudi Arabia for six months. In an article in the current issue entitled "Politically Incorrect," the Economist noted that 1991 had seen fewer bannings than usual.

World fast running out of water

DUBLIN (R) — The world will be unable to feed its growing population unless it makes better use of shrinking water resources, a leading U.N. official said on Friday. "Freshwater is a finite resource. It is not distributed equally, it is not plentiful everywhere and not available when and where needed most," Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Director-General Edouard Saouma told an environmental conference in Dublin. He told experts from 100 countries that water for food production was getting scarce and its quality was dropping.

Israel to launch third satellite

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel will soon launch a satellite capable of circling the earth every 90 minutes and staying in orbit for two to three years, the Al Hamishmar daily newspaper said on Friday. In an uncorroborated report, it said preparations to launch Ofek (Horizon) 3 had been completed and that it would be launched soon. "It will be able to stay in space for two to three years, unlike Ofek 1 and 2 which remained in space only a number of months and did not include the capability to take photographs... (it) will circle the earth every hour and a half," Al Hamishmar said.

Army kills family in Kashmir

SRINAGAR (R) — Indian soldiers killed a family of four as they were returning home, sparking protests by thousands of people on Friday in the troubled Kashmir valley, police said. Hafiz Ullah Shah, a businessman from the valley town of Baranullah, was shot along with his wife, their nine-year-old daughter and seven-year-old son, according to a complaint filed at a local police station. The complaint said Indian army troops fired on Shah's small van from an army truck.

TWA files for bankruptcy

MOUNT KISCO, New York, (R) — Trans World Airlines Inc (TWA) said on Friday it has filed for bankruptcy protection against creditors, becoming the latest in a fleet of major U.S. carriers to be forced into bankruptcy by financial problems. TWA said last year it would file what is called "Pre-packaged" bankruptcy after negotiating new terms with its creditors. In a prepackaged plan, a company works out terms for a reorganization before the bankruptcy filing is made.

Austrian police arrest 3 men

VIENNA (R) — Austrian police have arrested three men suspected of preparing an attack on a Kuwaiti target in Austria and seized explosives and weapons, a top police official said on Friday. Oswald Kessler, chief of state police, told a news conference: an Arab, an Austrian of Bulgarian origin and a Yugoslav were arrested several days ago.

Paris detains George Habash; affair leads to crisis in France

By Mariam M. Shahin with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The detention of Palestinian leader Dr. George Habash in his Paris hospital bed has caused an internal crisis in the French government, drawn outrage from the Arab World and started talk of extradition from Israel.

The 65-year-old physician, who is in Paris to receive medical treatment, has refused to answer questions from French investigators who want to interrogate him about past Middle East terrorist attacks.

His lawyer has asked that he be given international humanitarian protection and the Palestine Liberation Organisation representative in Paris has said that Dr. Habash was a "guest of France."

"He came to France after an agreement between the PLO and France and he must leave France with dignity when his state of health will have improved and he can travel," said Ibrahim Souss, the PLO representative in Paris.

Dr. Habash, the leader of the second largest PLO faction, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the PFLP, was placed under police custody while in his hospital room Friday.

Dr. Habash was flown to France two days after he collapsed from a brain haemorrhage in Tunis and admitted to the Red Cross Henri Dunant hospital in the French capital.

The "hospital arrest" was initiated by the internal French security service shortly after Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy complained about Dr. Habash's entry to France.

The Israeli complaint which called Dr. Habash a terrorist, was followed by a condemnation by

French President Francois Mitterrand who said he would personally see to it that Dr. Habash's stay in France would be "extremely brief" but could "have legal consequences."

Members of opposition groups in France have asked that both the French foreign and interior ministers resign over the Habash affair.

Observers in Paris said Friday that the opposition groups are using Mr. Mitterrand low popularity at the moment to create another internal crisis.

"The Habash affair became an issue because the opposition needed an issue to throw at the government, so they said the government is allowing terrorists," said one Paris based observer.

Legal action

The possibility of legal action against Dr. Habash was first mentioned by the French president Thursday. Although Mr. Mitterrand stressed that there was no national or international warrant out on Dr. Habash, he said links between "terrorism" cases and Dr. Habash had been made.

Under French law, terrorist

suspects may be held for 96 hours, renewable at a judge's request, before being charged or released.

Within hours after Mr. Mitterrand and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas returned from an official visit to Oman Friday, four French civil servants who had arranged Dr. Habash entry into France resigned from their posts. They include: The head of the French Red Cross Georgina Dufoux, who quit her post as presidential advisor; Francois Sheer, a top civil servant in the foreign ministry; interior ministry chief of staff Christian Vigouroux, and foreign ministry chief of staff Bernard Kessedjian.

France's Minister of Social Affairs Jean-Louis Bianco said a dossier on Dr. Habash had been opened by France's top terrorism investigator, Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere.

Interrogation is pending an okay from two judges. Appointed doctors say Dr. Habash is healthy enough to undergo interrogations.

But Dr. Habash's wife, Hilda, told reporters in Paris that she had refused that the two French physicians appointed by the judge examine her husband.



George Habash

Israel was Friday reported to be considering whether to ask France to extradite Dr. Habash for trial, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

The foreign ministry spokesman said the Israeli authorities "will consider the possibilities for the extradition of George Habash to Israel for murder."

An official speaking on condition of anonymity said Israel was mainly checking whether it was possible to ask France to send Dr. Habash to Israel.

Israel has an extradition treaty with France, and extradited a murder suspect for trial several years ago, the official noted.

Arab outrage

In Amman, Algiers, Damascus and Jerusalem, Arab condemnations of the move to detain Dr. Habash were loud and clear.

"It is a shame that France has not learned that trying freedom fighters for terrorism will not do anything for them. Have they

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Jordanian parties strongly deplore detention of Habash

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian political parties and professional associations Friday strongly deplored the French government's detention of George Habash describing it as a "campaign against the Palestinian national rights."

In a statement issued following a solidarity meeting held at the Professional Association Complex Friday evening, the parties and associations accused the French government of succumbing to Zionist pressure.

"They said that the detention would undermine the friendship between the Arab World and France and that they held the French government responsible for the well-being of Dr. Habash."

Jordan delegation to multilaterals returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber has described the outcome of the Moscow Middle East peace talks as positive and said that these talks helped in keeping the peace process integrated in accordance to what the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, wanted.

In an interview with Radio Jordan's Arabic service Thursday, Dr. Abu Jaber said the Arab point of view was foregrounded at the talks very strongly. "We managed to accentuate the Arab viewpoint very strongly, which is a very important issue, and we were able to give prominence to the Palestinian cause," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

"We worked on helping our Palestinian brethren to enable them to attend these meetings, but unfortunately they were not able to do so," he added.

Jordan, the minister said, has received promises that the Palestinians would be able to attend the meetings of the working groups at the end of April or the beginning of May, or to participate at least in the meetings of the refugees and the regional development working groups. "We still have time to help them in this regard," he added.

"We also asked for the formation of a working group to study the issue of Jerusalem and another on Palestinian refugees. This committee was in fact set up, and the Palestinians will be represented in it in a satisfactory manner," the foreign minister said.

The official spokesman of the Jordanian delegation to the Moscow party, Fayez Tarawneh, also expressed satisfaction over the talks. He said the talks achieved three main gains for the Arab cause despite Israeli intransigence.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, shortly after the arrival of the Jordanian delegation from Moscow Thursday, Dr. Tarawneh said the first gain for the Arab cause was manifested in the future participation of the Palestinian delegation in the meetings of the sub-committee and the five working groups formed by the Moscow

Prime minister ordered 2 Palestinians killed Shamir reminisces about his terrorist past

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, reminiscing about his years in the Jewish underground, has praised the 1944 assassination of a British diplomat carried out by Mr. Shamir's old terror group.

Mr. Shamir's remarks of the Maariv daily newspaper came on the 50th anniversary of the death of Avraham "Yair" Stern, the founder of the radical militia in which the prime minister was later a leader.

The Stern Gang, formed in 1940, used violence in an effort to drive the British from Palestine and hasten the establishment of a Jewish state.

British police killed Stern on Feb. 12, 1942, at age 34. His death was commemorated Thursday according to the Jewish calendar.

In 1944 Mr. Shamir and two others reorganised the group, Lehi, an acronym for freedom fighters for Israel. One of Lehi's most infamous acts was the 1944 assassination of Lord Moyne, the British minister for the Middle East, in Cairo.

"The assassination of Lord Moyne for example... was a very successful operation," Mr. Shamir said in the interview.

It was a "challenge to the British empire, which in those days was planning, according to information, an independent Palestinian state in the land of Israel," Maariv quoted Mr. Shamir as saying.

Lehi was also suspected as having carried the assassination of the U.N. mediator in Palestine, Count Folke Bernadotte, on September 17, 1948, following Israel's creation in May.

Meanwhile, a former Israeli intelligence officer said on Friday secret police killed captured Arab bus hijackers in 1948 on standing orders from Prime Minister Shamir which gave them a free hand against Palestinian fighters.

Yossi Ginosar, a former senior officer of the General

Security Services (GSS) or Shin Bet, said: "I personally had reason to believe the order to eliminate the terrorists was under authority given (the head of the secret police) by the prime minister."

Mr. Ginosar said his superior, Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom, has personally ordered the killings. He said Mr. Shalom told him long before the bus attack Mr. Shamir had given Mr. Shalom wide authority.

"The head of the GSS said unequivocally that all his actions in the affair were with the prime minister's knowledge and with his permission," Mr. Ginosar told army radio.

Mr. Shamir's spokesman Ehud Gol said the prime minister would not comment on Mr. Ginosar's remarks.

"This is a matter that has already been investigated," Mr. Gol told Reuters. "The case is closed and there is no need to tread over this ground again."

Ginosar is a member of the opposition Labour Party which is challenging Mr. Shamir in elections in June. He has not said whether he would stand as a candidate.

Mr. Ginosar was a member of a state inquiry that concluded the two Arabs died from blows after being led away by the Israeli forces which stormed the hijacked bus. Two other Arab hijackers died aboard the bus.

Mr. Shalom was forced to resign after the inquiry found evidence he had tried to cover up the killings. Press reports suggested Mr. Shamir and his successor, Shimon Peres, aided the cover-up.

Mr. Ginosar said he was placed on the inquiry panel "at the wish and under the direct intervention of the prime minister so that I would report to the head of the GSS, and he to the prime minister, on the workings of the committee."

U.N. summit discusses shaping new world order

NEW YORK (AP) — British Prime Minister John Major, opening a meeting of world leaders Friday at the United Nations, urged the organization to promote peace.

"We are united by a commitment to strengthen the wider community to which we belong," said Mr. Major. "Democracy is a delicate plant that needs the nourishing of peace."

"Our presence marks a turning point in the world and at the United Nations," said Mr. Major, who presided over the gathering because Britain heads the council this month. "The world now has the best chance for peace, security and development since the founding of the United Nations."

President Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin entered the council's chamber together to take their places at the huge circular table.

Mr. Yeltsin, making his U.N. debut, indicated readiness to push ahead with new arms reductions.

"This meeting could not have been more timely," said U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

French President Francois Mitterrand said: "We are no longer engaged in an overt arms race — this is great good news. What must now take place is nuclear disarmament."

He spoke of the emerging U.N. role, saying, "We have to develop preventive diplomacy."

The gathering of leaders of the 15 Security Council nations marks the first time since the founding of the United Nations in 1945 that the council, the most powerful U.N. body, has convened at the highest level. Most participating countries were represented by heads of state or government.

Collective security, arms control and nuclear nonproliferation are the major themes of a declaration the leaders were to approve, with brief mention of the virtues of democracy and human rights — despite China's

objections. Mr. Bush was taking advantage of Friday's gathering to discuss issues one-on-one with his fellow leaders, including Premier Li Peng of China — who is making his first U.S. visit since the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in China 2½ years ago.

Rights activists, Chinese students and Tibetan exiles gathered outside the United Nations to protest Mr. Li's visit.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Li were to discuss the curbing of Chinese missile exports. Heading into meetings Friday morning, Mr. Bush declined to discuss relations with China. "I am not taking any questions," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin, arriving Friday at the United Nations, was asked by a reporter if he would agree to reduce the number of the long-range multiple-

warhead nuclear missiles. "We would," he replied.

Russia replaced the defunct Soviet Union on the Security Council, one of five permanent council members with veto power. All are nuclear powers.

In remarks prepared for delivery to the Security Council, Mr. Yeltsin called for deep cuts in strategic and tactical nuclear weapons; new limits on nuclear testing; reductions in conventional arms and armies; and together controls on chemical and biological weapons.

Renewed attention was to be focused on one intractable conflict — the Yugoslav civil war. The U.N.-sponsored truce of Jan. 3 is holding, but U.N. envoy Marrack Goukoun on Thursday ruled out a quick deployment of U.N. peacekeepers to end a

(Continued on page 5)

Yeltsin proposes joint U.S., Russian space police force

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Russian leader Boris Yeltsin on Friday called for the creation of a global anti-missile shield based on Washington's "Star Wars" system and incorporating Russian high technology.

The proposal was contained in a speech prepared for delivery at an unprecedented summit meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

"I think the time has come to consider creating a global system for protection of the world community. It could be based on a reorientation of the U.S. strategic defence system to make use of technologies developed in Russia's defence complex," he said.

"Russia considers the United States and the West not as mere partners but rather as

allies," said Mr. Yeltsin, making his U.N. debut as the leader of an independent Russia.

He said the post-cold war United Nations must play a more active role and proposed the setting up of a reaction "mechanism" that could be used by the Security Council.

"I believe that we need a special quick-response mechanism to ensure peace and stability. Upon decision of the Security Council it could be expeditiously activated in areas of crisis," he said, without elaborating.

Mr. Yeltsin's proposal for a global missile defence puts a new twist on offers first floated by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, to share the fruits of the costly Star Wars programme with the then Soviet Union.

Bomb thrown at U.S. embassy Algerian troops fire shots to disperse Friday prayer-goers

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Security forces fired shots to disperse Islamic fundamentalists round Bab El Oued mosque in Algiers after mass prayers on Friday, eyewitnesses said.

Ambulance sirens could be heard in the streets of the neighbourhood, a bastion of support for the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which has been defying a crackdown on its demands for an Islamic state.

Scores of security forces, who cordoned off the Sunna mosque, fired in the streets as fundamentalists tried to gather after prayers, the witnesses said.

Sporadic shooting continued for at least 45 minutes.

They said plainclothes police fired some shots towards apartment buildings as a para-military helicopter clattered overhead.

FIS militants fled from the area, chased by riot police. It was not known if there were any casualties.

Security forces earlier clamped a tight cordon round the mosque, traditionally used by the FIS to spread its demand for an Islamic state.

Warning shots were fired last Friday to disperse FIS militants defying a ban from gathering in streets round the building.

Newspapers said this week that the state had appointed its own imam to the mosque, which has been left uncompleted by the FIS to avoid it being taken over by the religious affairs ministry.

But the FIS named its own preacher, Radouane Achir, who was installed as permanent imam of the Sunna mosque on Friday. He previously preached in another mosque.

A mosque official said: "We have named our own imam and told the ministry we do not accept their nomination."

Mr. Achir told about 500 worshippers inside the mosque: "Our life and our death is for God."

He told worshippers to avoid provocation, and remain patient while waiting for orders. "Things are not prime well,

This silence may be followed by the storm."

There were reports of other confrontations in which police fired tear gas or warning shots to disperse crowds, including a clash in the Algerian neighbourhood of El Harrach and another in the city of Constantine in eastern Algeria.

Most neighbourhoods in the capital, however, remained calm. A helicopter circled over Algiers to spot areas of trouble.

Shortly before prayers began, riot police had moved to the mosque entrance in Bab El Oued and the occasional car passed down the street which is normally packed with thousands of militants on a Friday.

At Kouba, armoured vehicles took position at road exits near the mosque, backing up a further deployment of gendarmes. In contrast the previous Friday prayers there, security forces appeared relaxed in the bright sunshine and no paratroops were

visible.

"Each Friday you terrorise us," a middle-aged woman shouted at the police and a small group of fundamentalists as she shepherd her children into her home near the mosque.

Other riot police guarded main roads beyond the narrow streets around the breeze-block Sunna mosque. They checked cars and pedestrians and turned back bearded fundamentalists heading for the crowded working class district.

A bomb was tossed over the wall of the U.S. embassy on Thursday night, causing some damage but no casualties, Western diplomats said.

The added that security would inevitably be tightened up at their embassies.

The Thursday night attack was believed to be the first on the mission sited on the heights of the Mediterranean seaport city.

There was no indication of who carried out the attack and no group has claimed responsibility.



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HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

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May God grant your Majesty and the Arab and Islamic nations further prosperity and success in the years to come.

Nosair gets up to 22 years

NEW YORK (AP) — The Egyptian immigrant acquitted of murdering anti-Arab extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane received up to 22 years in prison Wednesday for shooting two men following the slaying.

State Supreme Court Justice Alvin Schlesinger, before handing down the sentence, called the jury's verdict "devoid of common sense and logic" and "against the overwhelming weight of the evidence."

The prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney William Greenbaum, had asked for the maximum term. Defence Attorney Michael Warren, pointing out Mr. Nosair had no previous record, asked for the minimum.

Judge Schlesinger said he would impose maximum terms on each count, though he made some of the sentences run concurrently, effectively lowering the total maximum somewhat.

"There was brought to the streets a wave of terror, a wave of brutal, unmitigated violence," the judge said. "Only by the grace of God" did the two men Nosair shot survive their wounds, he added.

"I believe the defendant's con-

duct constituted, figuratively, a rape of this community" which stemmed from "bitter animosity and hatred," said Judge Schlesinger.

Nosair, 36, was found guilty Dec. 21 of gun possession, assault and commandeering a taxi at gunpoint after the slaying at a hotel in November 1990. Jewish leaders had pressed for a stiff sentence.

A murder conviction would have carried a sentence of up to 25 years to life in prison.

Nosair, addressing the court before sentencing, declared his innocence. "All that is happening to me is because I am an Arab Muslim," he said, calling his prosecution and sentence the result of the case's "international ramifications." Nosair became a U.S. citizen in 1989 and lived in Cliffside Park, N.J.

Several people were ejected from the courtroom for screaming during Nosair's 10-minute speech. "Death to Nosair" and "death to Arab dogs" were among the things shouted by the angry crowd. Other demonstrators, both for and against Nosair, gathered outside the courthouse.

The 58-year-old Kahane, who founded the Jewish Defence

League and served in the Israeli parliament, where he advocated the expulsion of Arabs from Israel, was shot at a speaking engagement.

Witnesses testified they saw Mr. Nosair run from the room with a gun in his hand, and two men were shot and wounded by Mr. Nosair as he fled. But the defence successfully argued that no one actually saw him pull the trigger.

The defence claimed instead that Kahane was slain by one of his own followers in a dispute over money and that Mr. Nosair was framed.

On the charge of criminal possession of a weapon, Mr. Nosair received a five-to-15-year term. He was found guilty on two second-degree assault counts, and received two and one-third to seven years on each. Those two sentences were ordered to run at the same time as the five-to-15-year term.

On the coercion count, Mr. Nosair received two and one-third to seven years. Judge Schlesinger ordered that term to be served after the five-to-15-year term.

Gorbachev considering Mideast tour

MOSCOW (R) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was quoted on Friday as saying he planned to take up invitations to visit the Middle East and hoped to play an active role in efforts to bring peace to the region.

The declaration, following meetings with foreign ministers this week, marked a tentative return to world diplomacy after a month in the political wilderness.

Mr. Gorbachev, a largely dormant force in domestic politics since his December resignation, said he was grateful to Middle East ministers who took time during peace talks in Moscow this week to visit him at his new political headquarters.

"To be honest, I must say it was pleasant for me that so many ministers came knocking on my door persistently and asking for meetings," he told the Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspaper.

Mr. Gorbachev was present as a co-sponsor when the first round of talks opened in Madrid last year. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, that role has passed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

But Mr. Yeltsin stirred diplomatic concern by cancelling at short notice plans to attend the conference.

While Mr. Yeltsin visited the troubled Black Sea fleet, Mr. Gorbachev eased back into world diplomacy, meeting the Israeli, Saudi Arabian, Jordanian and Egyptian foreign ministers.

He appeared relaxed and in good humour.

In talks with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, Gorbachev reflected on the Old Testament Jewish leader Moses, who led his people to the promised land.

Moses died before they reached their goal, but Mr. Levy said he told Mr. Gorbachev he did not wish him a similar fate.

Mr. Gorbachev, who ended the Soviet Union's virtual isolation in Middle East politics and moved to restore relations with Israel after a 14-year break, said he urged the region's foreign ministers not to despair if peace talks struck obstacles.

"I expressed the wish they should keep on with the work, moving forward step by step," Mr. Gorbachev said.

He said he had received invitations from the kings of Saudi Arabia and Jordan and from the Israeli government.

"I think I will take up these invitations," he said. "I have never been to the Middle East and perhaps it would be worthwhile."

The 60-year-old former president said his Middle East mission would have to wait until he had attended to matters in Moscow, where he heads a political research institute.

The stark contrast in Gorbachev's standing at home and abroad has survived his resignation.

At home he is still blamed by many for food shortages and deepening poverty. The "liberation" of Eastern Europe has won him few admirers in the shops and some enemies in the military.

Moreover, Mr. Gorbachev appears to have no hope of a leading political role while his long-time rival Mr. Yeltsin stands at the helm. But overseas he is still admired for the sweeping democratic reforms that ended the cold war.

The nickname "Gorby" is still spoken with admiration in the outside world but with a bitter edge in the former Soviet Union.

Shamir's handling of economy angers most Israelis

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, fighting a re-election campaign on security and Arab-Israeli peace talks, has angered four out of five Israelis with his handling of the economy, a poll showed on Friday.

Although his ruling right-wing Likud party still had a five point lead over Labour, Shamir looked more vulnerable than two months ago because of rising unemployment, pollster Hanoch Smith said.

A sample of 1,100 Jewish households in Israel and the occupied territories showed 80 per cent were dissatisfied with the government's handling of the economy, Smith told Reuters.

A separate poll on Friday showed an erosion of Likud support among immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have complained about a lack of jobs and housing.

The Tapitz Research Institute said that 30 per cent of Russian newcomers supported Labour

and other left-wing parties in January, up from 21 per cent last April.

Support for right-wing parties dropped from 46 per cent to 35 per cent over the same period, the poll showed.

Smith's survey said only a third of Israelis thought Shamir was doing a good job overall while 64 per cent gave him the thumbs down.

Most polls give Likud the edge over Labour for the June 23 general election which Shamir is fighting on the platform of opposing a land-for-peace deal with Arab neighbours while continuing with Middle East peace talks, partly to placate Washington.

The more dovish Labour Party, dogged by its fighting, is expected to launch on to bread-and-butter issues and try to forge a link between peace and economic growth in the voter's mind.

Smith says Likud's rating has slipped five points to 32 per cent

since November while that of Labour has risen five points to 27 per cent. Religious parties, a vital component of Shamir's on-going coalition government, polled around 12 per cent.

The great unknown is the Russian vote which could swing the election.

Pollsters say the nearly 400,000 Jews who have arrived from the Soviet Union since late 1989 could represent eight per cent of the electorate and account for between six and 10 seats in the 120-member parliament. Smith reckons up to 20 per cent of the newcomers will not vote but the battle for the others is on.

Labour will introduce a bill in parliament next week to put the nearly 200,000 Russians who arrived since January 1991 on electoral rolls, a party spokesman said. Otherwise they would not be able to vote, he added.

Labour, which has been out of power for most of last 15 years,

hopes to cash in on Russian discontent with jobs. Unemployment is already at a 20-year high of 11 per cent and is forecast to rise to 16 per cent by the mid 1990s.

The Tapitz survey of 600 Russian immigrants showed that fewer of them now opposed giving up land captured in 1967 for peace — 54 per cent compared with 69 per cent in December 1990.

Retaining and settling the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Jews in a central plank of Likud policy Shamir is resisting U.S. pressure, to condition U.S. aid for immigrant absorption to a curb on settlement, something Washington sees as vital to its Middle East peace drive.

Israeli papers say several Likud ministers have privately voiced fears that the economy is losing the party support in its stronghold of right-wing working class neighbourhoods and development towns.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian shot in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — A man in a ski mask shot another in a series of racial attacks on Thursday, apparently the victim was a Palestinian working in a news stand in the Hagertensens subway station, south of the city. He was wounded in the head and his condition was not immediately reported. Police said the shooting followed the pattern of previous incidents — a lone masked gunman approaches an immigrant and fires without warning. Assaults on dark-skinned foreigners have increased in recent months, reflecting an increase in anti-immigrant feelings. A new political party, New Democracy, entered parliament in September on a platform including restrictions on immigrants from the Third World. Police say 10 previous attacks on foreigners by a masked gunman were probably the work of one man. One immigrant was killed in the incidents, which have resulted in the largest manhunt in Sweden since the assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme six years ago. Swedish governments have welcomed Middle Eastern and African refugees seeking political asylum. As many as 10 per cent of the country's 8.5 million people are foreigners, not all of them from the Third World. The violence began last year with dozens of attacks on refugee centres in various parts of Sweden. Later came a series of bomb scares attributed to neo-Nazi sympathisers.

U.S. general denies friendly fire coverup

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. army general denied on Thursday that a six-month delay in notifying families of American Gulf war friendly-fire casualties of the cause of death was an attempt to cover up the high rate of Americans killed by their own side. Lieutenant General William Reno told a house of representatives subcommittee he decided as a matter of compassion not to notify any families of any of the accidental killings of U.S. soldiers by U.S. forces until investigations had confirmed all of them. The Pentagon has said nearly one-fourth of all Americans killed in the war, 35 of 148, were accidentally killed by American rather than Iraqi forces. "There was never any thought, not one microsecond's thought put into cover-up," Reno testified. "There was not a thought put into the embarrassment to the army." Reno, deputy chief of staff for personnel, said the reason he decided not to notify any families of the friendly fire deaths for six months "was purely the sensitivity to the families to try to reduce the anguish." He said 10 friendly fire victims were confirmed two months after the war ended early last March. But he said notifying their families "would have created enormous uncertainty (among other families) as to whether their son in fact, or daughter, had been killed by friendly fire." As a result, he said none of the families of the 21 soldiers killed by U.S. forces were notified the deaths were friendly fire casualties until August 12 last year.

Iraq chiefs filmed kicking prisoners — paper

LONDON (R) — An Iraqi army film smuggled from Iraq shows two government leaders kicking and abusing prisoners captured in last year's revolt against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Britain's Independent newspaper said on Friday. The Iraqi interests section at Jordan's London embassy — Britain and Iraq have no diplomatic relations — had no comment. It said an official might make one later in the day. The Independent published frames from what it said was an army video of the treatment of Shia Muslims captured during an abortive post-Gulf war rising in the south against the Iraqi president. It said they were "poor in quality but unquestionably genuine... brought out of Iraq by dissidents." The newspaper said the pictures show Ali Hassan Al Majeed, a cousin of President Saddam and now defence minister, and Mohammad Hamza Al Zubaidi, now prime minister, "join in kicking and abusing the prisoners whom they threaten to kill." The Independent said Majeed, then interior minister, says on the video one prisoner should be executed to make others confess but another should be spared because he would be useful. The newspaper said the video showed "brutal details" of the crushing of the Shia revolt. The uprising began in southern city of Basra as Iraqi troops streamed home after their defeat by U.S.-led allies in the six-week war to liberate Kuwait.

Kuwait voter registration to begin Saturday

KUWAIT (R) — Voter registration for Kuwait's parliamentary election will start on Saturday and last until the end of February, the government said.

Polling to restore parliament, dissolved in 1986 amid security concerns over the Iran-Iraq war, is due to be held in October.

An Interior Ministry statement published on Friday urged voters — representing only about 15 per cent of an estimated 600,000 Kuwaiti nationals — to start registering their names according to a 1980 electoral law.

This meant Kuwait's 25 electoral districts would remain unchanged, ending strong speculation the government might alter boundaries to change the composition of voters in its favour.

Each district will elect two parliamentary representatives. A partially elected national council, formed in 1990 with no legislative powers, was reinstated by the government after Iraqi forces were driven out of the emirate last February, ending seven months of occupation.

Fahd Al Ghanem, director of Kuwait's election board, has predicted the number of voters will be about 92,000 compared to 30,000 during the last election in 1985.

Syria, Pakistan get Chinese missile technology

NEW YORK (R) — China continues to sell missile technology to Syria and Pakistan despite statements by Chinese leaders they are willing to curb missile exports. The New York Times reported on Friday. It quoted senior U.S. administration officials as saying Beijing had recently delivered to Syria about 30 tonnes of chemicals needed to make a solid-fuel missile and plans to deliver an additional 60 tonnes in March or April. China had delivered to Pakistan guidance units that could be used to control the flight of M-11 ballistic missiles, the officials said. China has vigorously denied selling missiles or warheads to Syria and Pakistan. The United States imposed sanctions on the sale of U.S. satellite parts and high-speed computers to China in June 1991 after it learned that China had secretly delivered launchers for M-11 missiles to Pakistan.

Thousands of children die in Somalia

WASHINGTON (R) — Children are dying by the thousands as the Somalia civil war rages, preventing food from reaching starving civilians, a U.S. congressional hearing was told last week.

"The lives of hundreds of thousands of people are at risk," said Andrew Natsios, assistant administrator for food and humanitarian assistance of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"I consider (Somalia) the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today," he said.

Natsios told the House Select Committee on hunger that most of the children found to be severely malnourished by an International Committee of the Red Cross team last summer were now dead.

The ICRC had found that up to 90 per cent of children under five in southern and central Somalia were malnourished with 60 per cent of these severely malnourished — the stage of hunger bordering on starvation.

Natsios said the deteriorating security situation had blocked all direct food distributions from the port of Mogadishu and 8,000 tonnes of U.S.-donated food that could not be delivered was looted there last week.

Hundreds of Somali refugees, some so emaciated they look like skeletons, have been staggering across the border into Kenya every day to flee war and famine.

"Some have been walking for days without water. They're literally skeletons coming across the border," U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman Sylvia Foa said in Geneva on Friday.

Up to 75,000 Somalis, mostly suffering severe dehydration and malnutrition and many with serious war wounds, have arrived in Kenya since late October. They have swelled the mostly Somali refugee population to more than 140,000.

Turkey suddenly casts longer shadow in region

By Alistair Lyon
Reuter

ANKARA — Turks, not used to being loved, are taking a special delight in the warm response of Muslim former Soviet republics to their purposeful overtures.

The European Community has left Turkey in the waiting room. Ankara's quarrel with Athens smoulders on and Arab and Iranian neighbours are prickly, if not downright hostile.

Even relations with the United States and its NATO allies, marked by close military ties, can be fraught with suspicion.

Turkey, first to recognise Azerbaijan's independence, this week that Iran in the race to have the first ambassador in Baku — the Azeris ignored protocol and allowed the envoy, recovering in Ankara from a fall, to present his credentials by proxy.

"The Turks are going flat out in any feasible way to expand their influence and relations with their neighbours, but I don't see this as nefarious

or devious," a Western diplomat said.

Ankara, which has recognised all the republics of its former cold war foe, on Wednesday established diplomatic relations with the central Asian republics of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Turkey repudiates any desire to revive pan-Turkic dreams to unite more than 100 million people speaking variants of Turkish in a belt stretching from Istanbul to western China.

To make that clear, it is balancing its ties to Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan by also developing links to non-Muslim republics, including Armenia.

Turkey is pushing itself as a model of a Muslim but secular democracy, trying to free up its economy and promote free trade and private enterprise throughout the region.

On Monday foreign ministers from Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia gather in Istanbul to initial a Black Sea economic

cooperation pact.

Next month President Turgut Ozal goes to Tehran for a summit of the Economic Cooperation Organisation in which Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan are set to join Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.

Turkey may bask in the attention it is winning as a relatively stable, pro-Western democracy wedged between the Balkans, the Arab World, Iran and the new republics to the east.

But Seyfi Tashan, head of the independent foreign policy institute, said: "We aren't after prestige, but economic advantage through economic cooperation," he said.

Turkey lacks the oil muscle of Iran or Saudi Arabia. Yet with 57 million people and a developing economy roughly as big as Argentina's, it can offer other things than cash and Korans.

Ankara is signing agreements with former Soviet republics to expand trade and cooperation in areas ranging from transport and telecommunications to education and military training.

Several Muslim Asian republics and former Communist European countries have asked for Turkish advice on privatisation.

An official of Turkey's state-owned Eximbank said plans were afoot to get Turkish private banks to help set up a Turkey-central Asia bank to finance trade with Turkey and the West.

Eximbank wants to establish a technical assistance company to coordinate aid to the republics and a foreign trade company to stimulate commerce with Turkey backed by Turkish credits.

Forty budding Azeri diplomats will start 18-month courses at an Ankara University later this year. Baku has already chosen to revert to a Latin-based Turkish script from Cyrillic.

Two of Turkey's pro-Islamic newspapers are distributing special editions in Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

Only Greece and Iran have voiced misgivings about Turkey's dynamic approach to the changing shape of its neighbourhood.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Tortues Ninja
18:30 La Famille Fontaine
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 American Funniest Home Video
21:00 Encounter
21:30 For the Sake of Children
22:00 News in English
22:30 Selected at Birth

PRAYER TIMES
05:06 Fajr
06:26 (Sunrise) Duha
11:49 Dhuhur
14:47 'Asr
17:12 Maghrib
18:32 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623583. Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811263
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A depression centred northeast of Cyprus is affecting the Kingdom. Therefore, it will remain cold, cloudy and rainy, with a chance of snowfall in hilly areas. Winds will be westerly fresh with strong blows at times. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance for scattered showers of rain, and winds will be southerly fresh and seas rough.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 3/6
Aqaba 8/18
Deserts 0/9

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 7/15

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 7, Aqaba 19 Humidity readings: Amman 62 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362
Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shaer 791405
Dr. Jamal Maraga 776946
First pharmacy 651912
Ferdous pharmacy 773336
Al Azma pharmacy 637055
Nairouki pharmacy 623672
Al Sulam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Smeilani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Khaliq (—)
Al Shara'a pharmacy (275825)

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (teletext assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Alfakh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 643362
Madhat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Muasher Hospital 672227/9
The Islamic Abadi 660177/77
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajira 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674135
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

Zarga National Hospital .. (09)905560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital .. (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

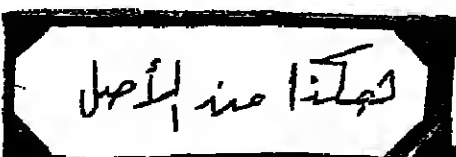
FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)52200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:45 Aqaba, Helsinki (RJ)
10:00 Brussels, London (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
10:40 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
11:20 Helsinki, Aqaba (RJ)
06:15 Amman (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:45 Aqaba, Helsinki (RJ)
10:00 Brussels, London (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
10:40 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
11:20 Helsinki, Aqaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:00 Amman (RJ)
19:18 Rome, Beirut (AZ)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple (red) 700/700
Apple (yellow) 500/500
Banana 500/450
Banana (Mukammal) 550/500
Beans 700/600
Cabbage 180/120
Carrot 200/150
Cauliflower 220/160
Cucumbers (large) 300/250
Cucumbers (small) 540/500
Eggplant 250/200
Garlic 650/550
Grapes 180/120
Lemon 180/120
Marrow (large) 300/250
Marrow (small) 500/400
Onion (dry) 200/150
Onion (green) 220/170
Orange 480/420
Pepper (hot) 420/250
Pepper (sweet) 1000/800
Potato 300/250
Radish 140/90
Sage 600/500
Spinach 200/150
Tomato 280/220



Polar front to bring more rain, snow, official says

AMMAN (Petra) — More rain, cold temperatures and snow seem to be in the offing, according to the Meteorology Department.

The department's secretary general, Ali Abanda, said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the country will be affected by very cold air masses of polar origin. The depression, coming from eastern Europe through Turkey and Greece, will result in a tangible drop in temperatures with rainfall and snowfall on areas with an elevation of 850 metres and above.

Dr. Abanda said snow would fall on the hilly areas in Ajloun, Balqa, western Amman, Karak and the Sharat mountains. The snowfall is expected to continue through Saturday and Sunday.

Dr. Abanda pointed out that Jordan was affected Wednesday and Thursday by a depression centred over the centre of Jordan. The depression was accompanied by a relatively warm air mass, which ended the wave of frost the country had witnessed throughout last week.

However, he added, the hot air mass was followed by a cold front which led to rain in almost all



Ali Abanda

parts of Jordan and to snowfall in some parts of the southern regions.

Preparations for dealing with any emergency caused by the current weather conditions have begun, officials said. In Karak, the Civil Defence Committee met under the chairmanship of Karak Governor Eid Al Qatameh. The committee prepared an operation room in the governorate which will work around the clock to follow-up any emergency.

The committee called on all departments to provide all equipment and to ask personnel to remain on call to cope with any emergency that might arise as a result of the expected bad weather conditions.

The governor called on people living in tents near valleys to move to higher ground to avoid being swept by any potential floods.

French tourism minister to arrive today for talks on increasing cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — French Tourism Minister Jean-Michel Baylet is due here today on a two-day visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian government officials on bilateral cooperation in tourism.

The talks are expected to end with the signing of a protocol to pave the ground for further cooperation in tourism fields.

A French embassy official told the Jordan Times that the minister was expected to inaugurate a new computerised tourist information system Saturday together with Minister of Tourism Yanal Hkmat to enable visitors of Jordan as well as residents to benefit from information about tourist attractions, hotels and other services.

The equipment, a gift from the French government is in the form of the computerised system called minitel, which connected through the telephone communication

system to a central computer based at the Ministry of Tourism, the official noted. By dialing telephone No. 613101, screen owners will have access to the information data base.

Following the inauguration, which is to take place at the Regency Palace Hotel in Amman, a group of French businessmen accompanying the minister will hold a round-table discussion with Jordanian businessmen to explore further areas of mutual cooperation, mainly in the tourism sector, according to the official.

Mr. Baylet was Sunday expected to hold meetings with Prime Minister, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, acting Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Khatib in addition to the Jordanian minister of tourism before addressing a press conference at Marka Airport Sunday afternoon shortly before his departure for home.

Shipping company planning to purchase third ship

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL) plans to purchase a multipurpose vessel of at least 16,000 tonnes capacity to operate along the company's routes, a spokesman said Wednesday.

The JNSL spokesman told the Jordan Times that at present the company owns one cargo vessel, Jordan I, and an oil tanker called Al Azraq. The company is planning to have a third ship for its own operations.

The spokesman was commenting on a decision taken by the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) which has approved a \$10 million loan to the JNSL to help it finance the purchase of the third vessel. He said that the company will now embark on the process of purchasing the vessel from world markets. He gave no further details.

Earlier, the IDB said it approved loans worth \$125 million to finance trade and development in member states. An IDB

statement in Bahrain said that the JNSL will get a \$10 million loan while the rest of the loans will go to seven other Arab and Islamic countries.

The IDB was set up to promote trade among Islamic states. In compliance with Islamic law it does not charge interest on the loans.

According to the company spokesman, the approval of the \$10 million followed months of discussions with the IDB which sent a team to Jordan to examine the project for which a feasibility study has already been conducted and approved by the JNSL board.

He said that the IDB will have a say in the type and purpose of the ship to be purchased from world markets.

According to the spokesman, two vessels, Hittin and Karameh, which were owned by the JNSL, have been sold, making way for the purchase of the new vessel.

The JNSL bought the 17,000 tonne Jordan I vessel from Norway for JD 6.6 million and since August 1990 has been operating it along Far Eastern routes, transporting potash and phosphate.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Mahmoud Al Obeidi at Alla Art Gallery.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic play entitled "Galgash" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Islamic Fundamentalism in Lebanon: A Downward or Upward Trend?" by Dr. Nizam Barakat, head of the American University of Beirut's Political Science Department, at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

King thanks Jordanian people, officials for concern

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, who is now recovering from a minor leg surgery, at King Hussein Medical Centre, assured Jordanian citizens that he was in excellent health after the minor surgery which he underwent Wednesday.

In a radio interview Thursday, King Hussein voiced his appreciation to the Jordanian people, who called to inquire about his health. The King stressed that the Jordanian people are living in the depth of his heart and that he was thankful to them for the warm feelings they have always expressed towards him. The King said he would stay for a short while at the hospital, following advice of doctors.

The King's private doctor, Samir Farraj, described the King's condition as excellent and said that His Majesty would leave the hospital within two or three days.

A large number of Jordanians called at King Hussein Medical Centre Thursday to inquire about the health of the King and to congratulate him on the successful

minor surgery. The visitors expressed their love and allegiance to King Hussein and wished him continued good health and happiness. The hospital received hundreds of calls from citizens inquiring about the King and wishing him a speedy recovery.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Thursday called King Hussein and congratulated him on the successful operation he underwent. President Arafat wished the King a speedy recovery and continued good health.

Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament also sent congratulatory cables to King Hussein, voicing their wishes for a speedy recovery. Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Muheilan sent a similar cable to the King.

Secretary General of the Arab Historians Union Mustafa Najjar, who arrived here late Thursday en route to Aden to take part in a symposium on the history of Yemen which will start Sunday, also wished the King a speedy recovery.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday receives a visiting Taiwanese delegation to discuss ways of enhancing economic cooperation (Petra photo)

Crown Prince discusses ways to increase cooperation with Taiwanese minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday discussed with visiting Taiwanese Minister of State for Scientific and Technology Affairs, Kuo Nan-Hung the outcome of his visits to various Jordanian institutions.

Prince Hassan also reviewed with the visiting minister his perceptions of the future programmes of cooperation between Taiwan and Jordan in the areas of science and technology, natural resources, and industry.

The minister voiced his country's interest in participating in technical training programmes, telecommunications projects and production of spare parts for electronic equipment. He also pledged his country's support for the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) in the area of consultations for neighbouring Arab countries, oil exploration and the best exploitation of natural resources.

Prince Hassan welcomed this

interest and stressed the need for drawing up a detailed plan of action on projects to be carried out in cooperation with Taiwan. Prince Hassan also requested the delegations members to communicate the findings of their visit to Jordan to other neighbouring countries.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and President of the Royal Scientific Society Dr. Hani Mulki.

Also Thursday, Chief of the Royal Court Adnan Abu Odeh received Dr. Nan-Hung at the Royal Court and decorated him with Jordan's Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order, which was conferred upon him by His Majesty King Hussein.

Last week, Dr. Nan-Hung met with a number of senior Jordanian officials and discussed with them means of enhancing bilateral cooperation, particularly in economic fields.

Joint committee agrees to study facilitating overland transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Turkey have signed minutes of the Joint Jordanian Turkish Overland Transport Committee meetings which concluded here Thursday.

According to the minutes, the two sides will undertake a thorough study of issues pertaining to overland transport, transit, passengers, fees and entry visas to Jordan and Turkey.

The joint committee will make a recommendation to the concerned authorities in both countries to study the possibility of reducing fees with a view to achieving balance and ensuring the observance of reciprocity.

The two sides, having reviewed the regulations and laws governing axial loads, agreed to give equal treatment to each other's trucks and transport vehicles. The committee decided to approach officials in both countries to instruct transport buses

from both countries not to pick up passengers while travelling through the territory of the other country.

The minutes called on all transport companies, shuttling passengers between both countries to conclude agreements organising regular trips aimed at encouraging tourism to both countries. The Turkish side agreed to grant entry visas to Jordanian vehicles entering Turkey and to grant six-month permits to Jordanian trucks at Turkish border posts. This is similar to procedures applied by Jordanian authorities to Turkish trucks.

The Jordanian side proposed some amendments to a number of the provisions of the agreement concluded in 1988 to lift restrictions of movement of Jordanian trucks passing through Turkey and to allow such trucks to pick up cargo on the return journey without needing special permits.

Organisations launch campaign to protect national economy, combat price increases

AMMAN (Petra) — A national campaign for combating price increases and protecting the economy was launched Thursday.

The campaign was organised by the General Federation of Jordanian Women and other associations, including the Consumer Protection Association, the Housewives Society, the Arab Women's Society, the Palestinian Women's Society and others.

The campaign aims at fighting price increases and protecting the national economy through promoting awareness about the importance of rationalising consumption, boycotting the expensive

items, encouraging local industry and locally produced items.

The organisations participating in the campaign issued an appeal calling on the government to intervene to fix the prices of basic items, particularly basic food items, they also called on the government to cancel the consumption tax collected on local production, to work out an effective mechanism to control prices, ensure that producers meet production specifications and that sellers adhere to the prices fixed by the Ministry of Supply.

The organisers further called on the government to desist from reducing duties on imported food.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzedin Al Khatib Al Tamimi addresses Thursday a gathering, including His Royal



Highness Crown Prince Hassan, at the Grand Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman (Petra photo)

Officials call for liberation of Jerusalem

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday attended a major celebration organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs at the Grand Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman to mark the Isra'aa and Mi'raj (Prophet Mohammad's nocturnal journey to heaven).

Addressing the ceremony, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzedin Al Khatib Al Tamimi said that His Majesty King Hussein had always worked to protect the holy places and had never budged from the firm principle of protecting these places.

The King had never spared any effort to work towards restoring the usurped holy places to Arabs and Muslims, Sheikh Tamimi said. He noted King Hussein's positions in support of the awqaf departments in the occupied

West Bank.

The also pointed out that Jordan is concerned about the situation of Jerusalem and the holy places in the occupied territories and that it had always supported any move or drive to maintain the Al Aqsa Mosque. He praised the efforts made by the Jordanian leadership and people to support the Palestinian people under occupation and alleviate their sufferings, saying that they had always worked for freeing them from the shackles of occupation.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Atef Al Butoush, who also addressed the ceremony, called for sticking to the teachings and principles of Islam. He noted that the Hashemites had the honour of rallying the Arab fold and liberating it from the great powers, which were tightening their hold on Arab

resources and the Arab will.

Dr. Butoush was referring to Prophet Mohammad, who enlightened the Arab Nation and saved them from the state of ignorance and retardation which was the predominant feature during that time.

He noted their contributions in unifying the Arab Nation, which was divided into many groups, and expressed conviction that they will also have the honour of shouldering the same burden their grandfathers and ancestors had borne by calling for achieving long-sought Arab unity.

The third speaker at the ceremony, Awqaf Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Helayel, called on all Arab and Muslim leaders to unite and to transcend personal differences and divisions in the best interests of the Arab Nation.

He also called on them to liberate Al Aqsa Mosque, the third of the holiest mosques. He wished King Hussein a speedy recovery from the minor surgery which he underwent Thursday and voiced the Jordanian people's love and allegiance to the King. He added that King Hussein has always been the first to call for achieving Arab unity, Islamic solidarity, respect of human rights and safeguarding holy places.

Attending the ceremony were King Hussein's Military Secretary Prince Talal Ibn Mohammad and Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Muheilan.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker issued a communique declaring Saturday a public holiday in observance of the occasion.

Getting ready for Seville Expo

National committee finalising preparations

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan, which will participate in the 1992 Expo in the Spanish city of Seville this May, is currently finalising the last phase of its preparations in an attempt to promote Jordanian culture, history and its contemporary lifestyle to the international arena.

The six-month international exposition, which begins April 20, is expected to be the largest in history with more than 113 countries participating, including 14 Arab countries and 23 organisations. It is expected to draw approximately 20 million visitors.

Previous universal exhibitions were held in Brussels, Montreal and Osaka, Japan.

According to the chairman of the National Jordanian Committee for the 1992 Seville Universal Exposition, Dr. Mazen Armouti, Jordan's pavilion is about 400 square metres and is part of a large building called the "Arab building" which includes Syria, Egypt and the Arab League.

"We will make up for the small space and limited financial resources by having a strong presentation with various sophisticated design concepts and by having a strong cultural programme outside

the pavilion," Dr. Armouti said.

Jordan's internal layout of the pavilion is divided into three main sections. One segment includes the "best archaeological pieces in Jordan," Dr. Armouti said. Some of the pieces will be exhibited for the first time, he said.

The second segment will display Jordan's heritage with a strong emphasis on Salt, one of the oldest urban centres of the country, with all the ramifications and symbolism on ecology, people and the heritage of Jordan.

The third corner, according to Dr. Armouti, will depict modern Jordan through media representations and a collage of pictures. "This corner will show Jordan's present day life on the economic, political and social facets of the country," including education, technology, industry and agriculture, he said.

"In an attempt to simulate the Siq experience in Petra, the route designated for visitors to the pavilion starts with a relatively narrow stone-lined gorge meandering to a canalside enclave portraying a relief of the Treasury of Petra," according to a report. "The base of this enclave is a stone podium with jagged edges containing a mosaic of a biblical map portraying the Jordan

River, Jerusalem and the Dead Sea."

At the back of the Petra enclave, a cross section of the desert castle Qasr Amra will be shown.

Through this exposition, Jordan aims to bolster ties of understanding and promote cultural and informational exchanges with other nations of the world," officials said. In addition, it hopes to help market its touristic and archaeological treasures through interacting with other cultures.

A significant activity for Jordan will be a two-week long cultural event. One during the last week of May, in which Jordan's independence day falls on, and the second cultural week during the last week of September.

The cultural week will host a series of symposiums and lectures — mainly dialogues on the role of Arab Islamic civilisation in Spanish and European history and how it affected the Renaissance and the age of discoveries, Dr. Armouti said.

Part of the cultural programme will also introduce festivities, art exhibitions, folkloric performances from the Royal Jordanian Folklore Troupe and the National Folklore Troupe as well as the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces Band and classical music presenta-

tions by renowned Jordanian pianists.

"We will hold some activities outside the pavilion site, in the city of Seville," Dr. Armouti said. "We believe we should interact directly with the Spanish aside from the international body of visitors to the expo site," he added.

There will be a heavy accent on culture and on the Ummayyad interlink between Arab World and Al Andalus, he said.

The National Jordanian Committee for the International Exposition was first set up by a government decision in August 1988, according to Dr. Armouti. But because of the Gulf war, over a year and a half ago, the progress of the committee was frozen until August 1991 "when the Council of Ministers decided to re-activate the national committee and release some funds to enable it to go on," Dr. Armouti said. "Since then we have been active on all fronts."

The exposition is seen as the most important international event for Jordan as the media networks will broadcast some footage and coverage of the major highlights of the expo throughout the six months. "Many of the events will be relayed through satellite to many nations including Jordan," Dr. Armouti said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives congratulatory cables

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court Friday received congratulatory cables sent to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj anniversary. The cables were sent by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the chief judge, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Amman mayor, the directors of the public security, the civil defence and the general intelligence departments, the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan and heads of public and professional organisations.

King condoles Al Mu'aqat family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday delegated the governor of Amman to condole Al Mu'aqat family over the death of Sheikh Subhi Suleiman Al Mu'aqat, director of the Shari'a Courts and former chief judge of the Cessation Court.

Crown Prince condoles Al Bashir family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday delegated the Jordanian ambassador in Khartoum, Sudan, to convey condolences to the family of late professor Mohammad Ali Al Bashir, president of Umm Darman Private University and member of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF). Prince Hassan, who is chairman of the board of trustees of ATF, also sent cables of condolences to the family of the deceased and Umm Darman University. The Crown Prince lauded in the cables the efforts of Mr. Al Bashir and his distinguished role in the activities of the ATF.

Aquino thanks King Hussein

MANILA (Petra) — Philippines President Corazon Aquino Thursday expressed appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's efforts exerted to achieve peace and stability in the region. President Aquino also thanked Jordan for the assistance it extended to Philippine nationals who were evacuated from Kuwait and Iraq during the Gulf crisis. While receiving the credentials of Jordan's non-resident ambassador to the Philippines, Farouq Qasrawi, Mrs. Aquino expressed hope that relations between the two countries will be enhanced, particularly in commercial fields. Mr. Qasrawi conveyed to the president the

greeting of King Hussein and his wishes of further prosperity to the people of the Philippines.

Sharif Zeid receives Australian officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received Thursday Australian senator and renowned archaeologist Karin Sowada who is currently on a month long visit to Jordan to take part in archaeological excavations in the Irbid region. The meeting reviewed the latest developments in the peace process and bilateral relations between Jordan and Australia. The meeting was attended by Australian ambassador to Jordan Robert Bowker. Ms. Sowada was also received Thursday by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat. The meeting dwelt on the situation in the Middle East region and the ongoing peace process. The meeting also discussed relations between Jordan and Australia, particularly in parliamentary fields. The Australian senator was also received by Chairman of the Lower House's Foreign Affairs Committee Deputy Husni Al Shayab. The two discussed Jordanian-Australian relations. Sharif Zeid Thursday received Jordan's ambassador to Qatar Nayef Al Qadi.

Arabiya receives Eritrean official

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat received Thursday a delegation representing the Eritrean Liberation Front led by Mohammad Ali Saeed. Dr. Arabiyat stressed the need to unify Arab Islamic ranks to enable the nation to face challenges and to liberate it from foreign dominance. Mr. Saeed briefed Dr. Arabiyat on the situation in Eritrea and affirmed the importance of reconciliation between the Eritrean people. Dr. Arabiyat also received a delegation representing the Sudanese Women Federation currently visiting Jordan. The meeting stressed the importance of activating Arab and Muslim women to contribute to solving problems plaguing Arab and Muslims. The meeting called on Arab and Muslim women to carry out a more active role in political, social and cultural issues. The two meetings were attended by Deputy Abdullah Alkhalil.

Legal Committee to meet Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Legal Committee at the Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting Sunday to resume discussion of the 1991 Political Parties Law.

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Immunity for a cheque?

LAST WEEK'S parliamentary debate on whether to lift parliamentary immunity on a member of Parliament accused of circulating a cheque that bounced for lack of funds brings to the fore two separate issues. The first centres on the principle of withdrawing immunity from a parliamentarian subject to criminal prosecution. The second relates to the juridical question of whether a person giving to a third party a bad cheque should be prosecuted criminally in addition to being a subject of civil litigation for the recovery of the amount of the cheque.

With regard to the first question, there is little doubt that parliamentary immunity can only be invoked if the act or omission complained of is connected or related to his function as a parliamentarian. Otherwise, membership in Parliament would end up becoming a cloak under which all sorts of civil or criminal liabilities would escape redress. If existing legislation on this point needs additional elaboration or clarification, then Parliament should make it its first business to address such issues of principle in order to serve notice on both the public as well as members of the legislature on where each side stands.

The more complex dimension of deputy Qarrash's case, however, touches upon the article in the current criminal code of the country which makes it a criminal offence to issue a cheque while there are no sufficient funds to cover it. Indeed this aspect of Jordanian criminal law is bizarre, to say the least. It is almost universally accepted jurisprudence that issuing bad cheques entails non-criminal responsibility that the aggrieved party can resort to in a civil court of law to recover the sum of the cheque in question plus damages. One can hardly find in the contemporary world a country which still criminally prosecutes a person for writing a bad cheque. It is also questionable whether criminal charges brought under such circumstances can be held lawful under international law. Our jurists should have a look at the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), for example, to see if criminal prosecution is applicable in the first place when a parliamentarian or non-parliamentarian alike passes on an uncashable cheque.

Had deputy Qarrash been subjected to a civil litigation only, as he should have been, then the whole mess could have been avoided. Instead he was made subject to criminal prosecution under existing Jordanian law which happens to be archaic and in need for amendment as a matter of urgency.

In retrospect, therefore, it is good that the entire issue has been raised in Parliament. Now the debate over it needs to be extended to cover its other dimensions that were hardly touched upon by our honourable legislators.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily criticised the Lower House of Parliament for protecting one of the House members, by refusing to lift immunity so that the deputy can stand trial for issuing a cheque that bounced. Absolving a person from any guilt through a court serves as the best protection that a person can ever get. But the deputies have deprived their colleague of this right, said the paper. It was indeed a shameful act to prevent justice from taking its course and vindicating the deputy, said the paper. This behaviour can only be interpreted as an attempt by the legislative authority to disrupt the work of the judiciary and can by no means serve justice to the deputy in question, added the paper. It said that it would have been a great honour for the deputy to be tried and then acquitted, but unfortunately such hope has been dashed through the action of the House of Parliament. The deputies who took the move to protect their colleague were the same persons who had promised voters to uphold justice and to fight corruption, said the paper. It said that the deputy himself should have demanded that his immunity be lifted so that he can stand trial and show the world his innocence.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that Jordan has a great number of engineers, who are increasing all the time, but the country has limited means of offering them good allowances as they demand. When, earlier, engineers had demanded allowances, the government immediately responded favourably to the demand because there were few engineers in the country, said Fahd Al Fanek. Now that the country has engineers who accept a JD 120 monthly salary, it is cheaper for the public sector to employ them; but those who seek higher salaries should seek them from the private sector or private business, said the writer. The writer said, that the Minister of Public Works, who is himself an engineer, had approved allowances to the engineers, while those institutions which applauded the success of the engineers' sit-in should have at least thought about the prospect of employing them instead of supporting their demand from a government with very limited income. The writer also criticised the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) for demanding that those engineers who had been dismissed from their posts for political reasons receive higher salaries. He said that demanding higher salaries for certain types of engineers is unjust and should not be considered by the government.

Following is the oral statement delivered on Jan. 29, 1992 by Amnesty International regarding the Israeli occupied territories.

The seriousness of the human rights violations in the Israeli occupied territories has not changed since the beginning of the Palestinian intifada in December 1987, although the scale of such violations has varied.

In recent years Amnesty International (AI) has drawn attention, including before the U.N. commission on human rights to arbitrary killings of civilians, 'widespread punitive beatings and unfair trials before military courts. In this statement, Amnesty International wishes to focus on two areas of continuing serious concern: the use of torture or ill-treatment during interrogation and the use of administrative detention.

The Israeli authorities in the occupied territories systematically use interrogation practices which clearly amount to torture or ill-treatment. Methods include beatings all over the body, often concentrated on sensitive areas such as the genitals; hooding with dirty sacks; sleep and food deprivation while held in solitary confinement; prolonged shackling in painful positions; and confinement in small, dark cells known as "closets" or, when kept cold, "refrigerators."

Under the Israeli military justice system in the occupied territories, detainees' access to judges is routinely withheld for 18 days, and access to lawyers and family for much longer periods. Judges appear reluctant to order investigations into allegations of torture or ill-treatment made by defendants in court. Prosecutors and judges also place pressure on defendants to accept a plea bargain rather than ask for an investigation of allegations to torture or ill-treatment and continue with a full trial. These shortcomings of the Israeli justice system in the occupied territories clearly facilitate the infliction of torture or ill-treatment.

Following the publication in October 1987 of the report of the Landau Commission of Inquiry into the methods of investigation of the General Security Service, official secret guidelines for interrogators were adopted. In its report, the commission said that methods of interrogation may include "the exertion of a moderate measure of physical pressure". The commission stressed that "the pressure must never reach the level of physical torture or maltreatment". However, it clearly endorsed "slapping a suspect's face, or threatening him".

At the very least such methods constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and as such are absolutely forbidden by international law.

Amnesty International believes either that the Israeli government is endorsing methods of torture or ill-treatment permitted by secret guidelines on interrogation, or that Israeli interrogators are massively violating those guidelines in addition to the international legal prohibition of torture, and ill-treatment.

Following the publication in March 1991 by the Israeli human rights organisation B'Tselem of a report on torture of Palestinian detainees, a number of official investigations were initiated. In May 1991 Major-General (reserve) Rafael Vardi was appointed to investigate allegations of violence against detainees by soldiers. In August 1991 he recommended that responsibility for interrogating residents of the occupied territories be transferred to non-military au-

thorities. This was not implemented.

Three other official investigations into interrogation practices were announced in May 1991, involving the General Security Service and the Ministry of Justice. In a statement to the High Court of Justice in November 1991, the Israeli government indicated that one such investigation had found that interrogators in Gaza prison had deviated from the official guidelines during the period in which a Palestinian detainee, Khaled Shaikh 'Ali, was tortured and killed in December 1989. Two interrogators received sentences of six months' imprisonment each after conviction of "causing death by negligence" in connection with his death.

In another case, 'Abd Al Ra'uf Ghabin was accused of being a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and was detained without charge or trial between August 1990 and August 1991. He said in an

affidavit:

"I was interrogated every day, Saturdays excepted, starting on Aug. 30, 1990, until Sept. 18, 1990... During the interrogation I was beaten four to six times — on my head, abdomen, genitals — usually with a fist."

He also said that he was deprived of sleep continuously for periods of several days. The Israeli authorities informed Amnesty International that 'Abd Al Ra'uf Ghabin's allegations had been thoroughly investigated and that it was found that "there had been no deviation from the accepted procedures for interrogations". The Israeli authorities also said that he had "retracted most of his allegations" and that others were "found to be baseless". However, 'Abd Al Ra'uf Ghabin has categorically denied having withdrawn any of the allegations of torture and ill-treatment previously made. Amnesty International is still seeking information on the details of this investigation and the

"accepted procedures for interrogations" found to have been followed in this case.

Amnesty International believes that urgent measures of redress are needed. The Israeli government should demonstrate that the official secret guidelines on the use of "pressure" during interrogation are consistent with the international legal prohibition of torture and ill-treatment. Anyone violating this prohibition should be brought to justice and, if found guilty, punished appropriately.

Amnesty International welcomes Israel's ratification in October 1991 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. However, it is regrettable that the Israeli government at the same time decided, among other reservations, not to recognise the competence of the Committee against Torture to consider complaints from or on behalf of individuals under its jurisdiction. Amnesty Interna-

tional calls for these reservations to be withdrawn.

Several hundred Palestinian residents of the occupied territories, including prisoners of conscience, are held at any one time in administrative detention, without charge or trial. They serve renewable detention orders of up to six months. Although a two-step judicial review of detention orders is available, appeals by detainees take place weeks or months after arrest. Crucial evidence about the reasons for detention is almost invariably withheld from detainees and their lawyers, thus rendering the existing legal safeguards largely meaningless.

One such detainee is Sami Abu Samhadanah, who has been held in administrative detention almost uninterruptedly since September 1985. Early in January 1992 he was served with a deportation order. At his appeal hearings against administrative detention and deportation, the Israeli authorities did not make available any evidence to show that he had been involved in violence.

Amnesty International opposes detention and deportation when imposed solely for the peaceful exercise of human rights. It also opposes the detention of any political prisoner, including administrative detainees, without a fair trial within a reasonable time.

Amnesty International urges the Israeli government to end the practice of administrative detention. While welcoming the ratification by Israel in October 1991 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Amnesty International views with great concern the declaration by Israel that it was derogating from its obligations under Article 9 to the extent that they conflicted with the state of emergency in force since 1948. Article 9 prohibits arbitrary detention and provides safeguards against such detention.

Amnesty International fully recognises that violent as well as other methods of protest have been used by Palestinians in the occupied territories. Israeli soldiers and civilians have been killed, as have several hundred Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. Many such suspected "collaborators" were interrogated and tortured by their captors before being killed.

Amnesty International opposes deliberate and arbitrary killings by political opposition groups, as well as opposing the death penalty and extra-judicial executions carried out by governments. It also condemns the torture and killing of prisoners by anyone.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Region's problems cannot be solved without a settlement to the Palestinian issue

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

IN the past week, the Jordanian press focused its attention on the Moscow multilateral talks, the Palestine question, Iraq and Libya in addition to a host of domestic issues.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the Moscow parley proved to the world that the negotiations were going in a vicious circle, yielding no fruitful results, due to the lack of will, on the part of the United States, to force Israel to comply with the requirements of a just peace.

Mohammad Kharroub said that the only beneficial thing coming out from the Moscow meetings is the fact that all the parties have focused their attention on the role of the Palestinians and their essential presence in any effort to solve the issue.

This bleak view was echoed by a columnist in Al Dustour daily who said that people watching the Moscow meetings on their television screens were bored by the long and tedious speeches that can achieve nothing for the Palestinian people.

Saleh Qallah said that for the past quarter of a century the Arabs and the Palestinians had been hearing speeches and promises. The U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was really not concerned with the speeches of the Arab delegates, which means that the sponsor of the parley is not concerned with the Arab ideas in general and is pursuing a policy that can cater to the needs of Israel's interests alone, the writer said.

Sawt Al Shaab daily lamented the lack of coordination among Arab states at the Moscow parley. It said in an editorial that an Arab foreign ministers conference that preceded the Moscow meetings ended up in nought, leaving the Arabs in disarray.

Once the Arabs are united in will and in practice, they can together impose their united stand and their conditions in dealing with Israel and deprive Israel of the chance to deal separately with the Arab countries, said the paper.

Al Ra'i in an editorial said that the quest to ensure future cooperation among the countries of the Middle East over disarmament, refugees, water and pollution can only be achieved once peace and justice have been established in the region.

The paper said that only when the Arab-Israeli conflict has been resolved on a just basis, can the other issues be tackled; otherwise the countries of the region would continue to face the same grim future.

Dr. Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the Moscow meeting pitted the whole world, including the Arabs, against Israel which refuses to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions. The writer said that from the speeches delivered in Moscow one can see that the whole international family insists on the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands.

For its part Israel looks towards achieving success regionally diverting the world's attention from the Palestinian issue, but the Arab delegates have made it clear that nothing can be achieved in regional matters without a just settlement to the Palestine problem.

For Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, the Moscow meeting, which was shunned by the Syrians, the Lebanese and the Palestinians, could have been a preliminary stage for imposing unacceptable conditions on the Arabs.

The writer said that the inclusion of Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries not directly involved in the conflict, while keeping away those directly concerned with the issue, is a bad sign and could mean that the U.S. and other nations were trying to pave the ground for direct relations between the Arabs and Israel without having to end the conflict between the Arabs and Israel over the Palestinians issue.

The same pessimistic view was shared by Tareq Masarweh who writes for Al Ra'i daily. How can the Arabs accept the U.S. as an arbiter in their historic conflict with Israel, which is a strategic ally of the United States? asked the writer.

In the Moscow meeting, he said, the U.S. and Israel played the same game, trying to avoid the implementation of U.N. resolutions and deprive the Arabs of their rights. He said that it is a pity to see the Arabs chasing a mirage in Moscow, as they did in Washington, without having any real power or a winning card but pursuing the course of total capitulation.

Tackling the situation inside the occupied Arab territory, Munez Al Razzaz said that as the so-called peace process continues elsewhere, the Israelis pursue the goal of building Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. How are the Arabs going to view the question of America's loan guarantees to Israel to enable the Jewish state pursue its settlement programme? The writer asked. The whole peace process would down the drain should the settlement programme continue and should Israel get the loan guarantees for such programme, he said.

It is worth noting that President Bush has not yet taken a decision about the loan guarantees to Israel, said a

columnist in Sawt Al Shaab. It is also worth noting that Mr. Bush, who had repeatedly described the settlements as a stumbling block in the peace talks, is keeping silent about Mr. Shamir's latest statement about new settlements that are mushrooming in the occupied Arab lands, said Salameh Ekour.

As long as the United States shoulders the responsibility of the peace process, the writer said, the Arabs are expecting from Washington to be fair and to put an end to the settlement programme so that peace can be given a real chance.

Three months after the start of the peace process in Madrid, Arabs see the United States turning its back to the Arabs and forgetting its promises of including the Palestinians from the diaspora and Jerusalem in any meaningful discussion concerning the Palestine question, said Ibrahim Al Absi in Al Ra'i.

The writer said it seems that the United States is gradually trying to absorb itself from the promises it made and so it is not pursuing efforts with the same spirit as promised but rather encouraging the Israelis to hold on to occupied Arab territories.

Evidence in this matter is represented in Washington's refusal to recognise the PLO, involve the Palestinians in talks over their future or openly demanding that Israel abandon occupied territory, the writer added.

If the Israelis require U.S. loan guarantees to plant further settlements in the occupied Arab lands, the Arabs want guarantees from Washington that the peace process would not be a waste of time or a cover up for Israel's atrocities, demanded Mahmoud Rimai in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The writer said that it is rather astonishing to see Washington contemplating guarantees for Israel, to enable

it hold onto occupied Arab territory, at a time when it is claiming that it is leading the way for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

As the eyes are turned to Washington to see whether it would offer the Israelis their guarantees, the Arabs are looking towards the U.S. administration to see sufficient guarantees given to ensure the success of the peace process, the writer added.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily bitterly criticised the Security Council for ordering the continuation of a blockade on Iraq, imposed since August 1990, noting that tens of thousands of lives are now in jeopardy due to this unjust practice.

The paper said that the extension of the sanctions for an indefinite period is a decision by the colonial powers to continue their massacring of the innocent people of Iraq.

Those who dropped two nuclear bombs on Japanese cities in world war II, the paper said, aimed at killing women and children and not the Japanese troops, a practice which is being repeated against Iraq through the present sanctions, the paper said.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that despite the sanctions on Iraq, the Iraqi people are pursuing the process of reconstruction with all efforts and proving to the world that nothing can stop the people's determination to survive the present ordeal.

Ahmad Jabbas said that the Iraqi defiance is clearly shown in the construction programme and the utilisation of all available potentials for survival and for averting the results of the sanctions.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the aggression on Iraq is now being shifted to Libya, with the NATO forces making ready for a new adventure.

Arafat Hijazi said that the whole world should realise that

Libya will not, this time, be left alone and that the Arabs, who were in disarray in the past, are bound to rally behind their sister Arab state and defend its people.

Turning attention to local issues, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said that the recent frost spell has caused severe harm to crops and the national economy.

The farmers of this country continually face losses due to frost, drought or floods and as they are facing one setback after another the government should implement a policy by which to provide compensation to the farmers demand Ahmad Dhiban.

He said that it is reasonable for the farmers to demand compensation as they can not stand repeated losses with very meagre income and little harvest that can barely feed their families.

Another columnist called attention to the need for the government to impose stricter rules to deter further manipulation of meat prices.

Nazih said that the Ministry of Supply did well to refer a number of butchers to court for their cheating on prices or the types of meat sold to the public, but stricter rules should be imposed to deter such practices and save the public from the continuing increase in prices the essential commodities.

"Another columnist, in Sawt Al Shaab, tackled the question of soaring prices of meat and said that the current campaign on the part of housewives to boycott meat purchases would serve as a tool to deter further manipulations.

Suleiman Al Barnawi said that by turning to fish and poultry meat, households do not only save themselves extra money, they would have otherwise to pay for the butchers, but would also ensure the success of their campaign to bring down meat prices.

لبنان من لبنان

Abdul Salam Ahmad Jalloud — exclusive interview

The Libyan revolution is an Islamic and an Arab one — Maj. Jalloud

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Abdul Salam Ahmad Jalloud first met the man who would go on to become the Libyan leader when both of them were still boys. Jalloud was 11, Moammar Qadhafi was in the class above. After leaving school, the next time the two met was in prison. Both had been jailed for taking part in student demonstrations against the Libyan monarchy. Upon their release, Qadhafi summoned Jalloud and asked him to join to a more concerted attempt to overthrow the government. "He said that we must begin organising the revolution," recalls Jalloud, now 46. Like Qadhafi, Jalloud enrolled at the Libyan military academy, to learn, he says, from the inside how to defeat the enemy. He was beside Qadhafi when the revolution finally succeeded on the night of Sept. 1, 1969. Today, Major Abdul Salam Ahmad Jalloud is Col. Qadhafi's second-in-command.

In Rome on a four-day visit which centered on a meeting with Pope John Paul II, Major Jalloud spoke to World News Link about his audience with the pontiff, the challenges for Libya and the Arab World at the dawn of the 21st century, and accusations that Libyan terrorists were behind the midair bombings of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie in Scotland in December 1988 and of a French DC-10 over Niger nine months later. The governments of the U.S., Britain and France recently asked that the U.N. Security Council issue a resolution that would force Tripoli to provide a "full and effective response" to the charges. The 15-member council is currently debating the request.

Question: Who requested your audience with Pope John II, you or the pontiff? What were the main subjects covered?

Answer: "It was I who asked for this meeting. It is not the first time that I meet the pope. He is a spiritual and political figure who plays a very important role in the Western Christian world and he has made an enormous contribution. I explained to him the threats that have been made against the Libyan people and I explained the injustice of the accusations made against us over Lockerbie ... I told him of our total willingness to cooperate fully in discovering the truth, provided the principles of international law and the sovereignty of the state are respected ... Secondly, I spoke to him of the dangers that have resulted from the crumbling of the old world order ... The U.N. Security Council is controlled by American policy, and this for us poses a grave danger. Certainly, things will change at some stage in the future and another power will emerge to restore the balance, but this period is the most critical and serious of human history, because the small nations have no-one to defend them anymore ... So it is up to the pope to fill this void with a force that represents morality and spirituality."

"I also discussed with him the possibility of resuming the Islamic-Christian talks which last took place in Tripoli in 1976. And

I explained to him that there are reactionary forces in the U.S. and Europe which are trying to transform the old conflict between East and West into a conflict between north and south, that's to say, between the Christian north and the Muslim south."

Q: To go back to Lockerbie. Libya claims to be innocent of the charges. What exactly are you prepared to do to help see justice done?

A: "We want the law to be administered. We want the American and British authorities to give up judges details of the evidence they say they have. So far, all they have given us are the charges and the verdict, accompanied by threats, and that goes against both international law and the U.S. constitution ... As soon as we heard the charges, our Supreme Court appointed two magistrates to start an investigation. These magistrates asked the American, British and French authorities for the evidence so they could pursue the inquiry, but they refused ... They (the U.S. and Britain) have said that their accusation was based on the fact that a suitcase carrying explosives had left, unaccompanied, from Malta. The Maltese Foreign and Justice ministers have declared before parliament that no such case left Malta. In a joint statement with his Libyan counterpart, the Maltese prime minister has declared the same thing. And Malta Airlines have also denied that any such suitcase left there, so that shows their accusations are completely without foundation."

"Now they are trying to get the case brought before the U.N. Security Council. The U.N. Charter does not allow for the organisation to pass judgment in individual legal disputes, nor has it ever done so in its entire history. There is no precedent ... We are now making yet another proposal, the setting up of an international neutral judicial commission that would examine the competence of the Security Council to look at such a case. We would accept the judgment of this commission. We will make this proposal later this week via the Belgian embassy in Tripoli, which looks after American interests in Libya."

Q: Are you concerned about the possibility of economic or military sanctions against Libya?

A: "On the one hand, we are not worried, because we know we have cooperated fully over this matter. We know we are innocent and that there is an injustice against us ... But, after the collapse of the old world order, America has become the policeman of the world ... And for that reason we are concerned. And what makes us even more worried is the attempt to put this case before the U.N. Security Council, which we interpret as an attempt to seek the backing of the council to stage the same scenario as happened with Iraq. But the two cases are very different. The Security Council did have jurisdiction in the case of Iraq, because it was a political matter — there was a state that had invaded another state, a state that wanted to cancel another state from the world map. But this is an indi-



Moammar Qadhafi



Abdul Salam Ahmad Jalloud

vidual legal case, which should be judged by magistrates and legal experts. This is not a matter which concerns the state of Libya."

Q: What has happened to the accused? (France and the U.S. have asked for the extradition of six senior Libyan officials, including a brother in law of President Qadhafi) are they under arrest or being investigated?

A: "Our legal system is independent from the state. Our judges respond to no-one other than to their own conscience and to the law. This is a legal matter, which is their department, but what I do know is that they (the two magistrates) have cautioned the accused that they are under investigation ... We believe that the U.S. is trying to hoodwink public opinion and is looking for an excuse to carry out an act of aggression against us, whether it be economic, political or military ... We want better relations (with the West), based on mutual respect and non-interference in internal matters."

Q: How do you judge the rise of the fundamentalist party in Algeria? Was it something you foresaw, and what do you predict will happen?

A: "Islamic extremism is the result of injustice and aggression by the West towards the Arab nations. Repression, injustices and the practice of cultural alienation, the protection of unjust and corrupt regimes that are founded on consumerism, the injustices practiced by the U.S. and Britain against the Palestinian people ... the unfair threats against the Libyan people; these are all factors which force a nation to search for an identity by returning to its roots, and for us, those roots are in Islam. So if fanaticism does exist in the Arab World, the fault lies with Western fanatics. We respect the choice of the Algerian people. We have enormous faith in the Algerian people and in its leaders. The Algerians have the right to choose who they want."

Q: Libya is also an Islamic nation. Could the same thing happen one day in your country?

A: "We have no fear of it ... Islam is not something that is founded on aggression. It is against war, unless it is for self-defence. Islam does not support the notion of a theocratic regime, because Islam does not accept that any human should have a divine mandate to rule in the place of God. Islam accepts that people have the right to self-government on the basis of these principles. In Islam, there is no

government or president. In Islam it is the masses who rule. Islam is against repression, against oppression, against exploitation, against capitalism, against fanaticism. As the Prophet Mohammad said, individuals are as equal as the teeth of a comb. So in Islam, your reputation does not depend on your position, or what you own, but on your moral and ethical behaviour and the good that you do."

"What has happened in Algeria could not happen in Libya for various reasons. First of all, our revolution's aims and slogans call for freedom, democracy, Arab unity, independence, the victory of Islam, government by the people, and these are all principles with which the Islamic people can identify. In Libya, our revolution is first and foremost an Islamic and an Arab one. In Libya, the young people identify with these principles ... The second point is that on the domestic front, the situation is different. Most importantly, we have a democratic system under which the people rule themselves through representatives in the People's Congress. We don't have economic problems. We don't have poverty. Our country is independent. We are not controlled by an embassy or an oil company or the World Bank. We may have made mistakes. But the most important thing is that since 1969 Libya has made its own decisions. We don't have housing problems. There are enough schools. Education is free of charge. The health service is very high. And even when we have made mistakes, we have undergone a process of self-criticism and corrected the errors, because they could well have jeopardised the principles of the revolution. This leads us to think that there are both external and internal reasons which can push a country towards Islamic fanaticism."

Q: What are the major challenges for the 21st century in Libya?

A: "First and foremost, the consolidation of power in the hands of the people. Then, that the Libyan people progress from an oil-based mentality to a production-based mentality. Also, the achievement of Arab unity, a unity based on dialogue, freedom and democracy. Another major challenge is to correct the image of Islam to the true Islam, the Islam of equality, of respect for other people, respect for liberty, respect for

other nations and races ... Islam has become distorted, presented in a reactionary manner, as something which preaches against freedom, against women, which sanctions the keeping of concubines — the famous harems. And this is not right."

Q: What are the main social challenges for the new century in Libya?

A: "First of all, to overcome backwardness and to encourage greater learning, that's to say, to put into practice and give credibility to the concept of government by the masses, described in the Green Book (written by the president). Another priority is the emancipation of both men and women from everything that has been accumulated down the years — the complex of fear that they have inherited. We want to activate a spirit of dynamism among the people. Fear has become a culture, the result of the period of colonialism and repression. Freedom is not something you can decree in a charter or a constitution. It is something that must exist inside the people."

"On the financial side, we are not looking for economic development just for Libya. Such development can only be achieved in the context of (Arab) unity, at the economic level if nothing else. Because the 21st century will be one of great productivity, but also great consumption, that's to say, an era of intensive technology."

Q: How do you see the role of Libya in what diplomats are calling the new order in the Arab World?

A: "We are working with all our might to achieve an Arab order, but one that is founded on the wishes of Arabs themselves ... an order that will serve the interests of Arabs."

Q: What puts Libya in a position to carry forward the idea of this Arab unity?

A: "Most importantly, our relationships are now excellent with all the other Arab states. Furthermore, because of our popular system of government, the people are behind us. They trust us. We should also add our resources and economic situation. Also, our aims are not dictated by self-interest. And we have a great deal of experience behind us, because since 1969 we have been working towards creating a culture of Arab unity. So we have credibility. We have signed accords with Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, as well as a treaty with Egypt and Sudan and another with Egypt and Syria. We have put all our energies into achieving Arab unity because we believe that if we don't, we will be left behind and doomed to obliteration."

Q: How do you see the Middle East peace conference developing? Do you believe this initiative can bring peace to this region?

A: "We believe that the balance of power is such that the Arabs will not be allowed to obtain anything from the talks ... We don't believe the American administration is bringing pressure on the Zionist government. And we challenge the U.S. to apply the principles of international law to our enemy the Zionists." — World News Link.

Paris detains George Habash

(Continued from page 1)

forgotten when they kidnapped (Algerian president) Ben Bella?" asked Palestinian leader Nayef Hawatmeh in Amman. Dr. Hawatmeh who like Dr. Habash is a leader of a left-wing Palestinian group, said he was shocked at France's move. "I wonder why France has not learned to distinguish between fighters for liberation and fighters for occupation," Mr. Hawatmeh said referring to France's friendly policy towards Israel.

While supporters of the PFLP demonstrated and made plans to meet with France's ambassador in Amman, Ibrahim Bakr, a noted human rights lawyer in Jordan, said that a contemplated Israeli request for extradition would be outside the limits of international law.

"The United Nations charter allows for armed struggle by an occupied people against their occupiers. They cannot therefore extradite Habash for terrorism against Israel," Mr. Bakr said.

While statements made by PFLP supporters in Damascus and Jerusalem called for the immediate release of Dr. Habash, Algerian Radio blamed his detention on Israeli influence on the French government.

In Jerusalem a delegation of Palestinian personalities, representing different political trends protested in front of the French consulate in the occupied city. Although the PFLP opposes the ongoing peace talks with Israel, three of the Palestinian delegates to the talks were among those asking for his immediate release from French detention.

Lawyer denied access

Dr. Habash's lawyer Mourad Oussedik said he was not permitted to meet with his client. "French security police turned me away at the hospital gate," he said.

He said he would make an official request adding that Dr. Habash be allowed to leave France.

"We are asking that Dr. Habash be placed under the protection of the International Committee of the Red Cross and

receive medical treatment outside France," Mr. Oussedik told reporters in Paris.

On Friday night, however, the ICRC said it had turned down a request to put Dr. Habash under its protection.

"If someone wants to transfer Dr. Habash, that is a question for the French authorities, who authorised his entry and stay," ICRC spokesman Paul-Henri Morard said in Geneva.

The transfer of Dr. Habash from a Tunis hospital to Paris was initially arranged through contacts between the Palestinian Red Crescent and the French Red Cross.

Independent observers in Paris told the Jordan Times Friday that "it will not be easy to prosecute

someone who has been given permission to enter the country for humanitarian reasons."

Before leaving for a U.N. Security Council meeting in New York, Mr. Mitterrand told reporters he expected Dr. Habash to leave France "soon."

In Washington State Department spokesman Joe Snyder told reporters that "France's decision to admit Dr. Habash was its own decision. We don't have any comment on that." No other Western country reacted to the affair as of Friday night.

Dr. Habash is a native of the city of Lod in the heart of Palestine. The city was completely overrun by the Israeli army in 1948 after it terrorised its population into fleeing for their lives.

New world order discussed at U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

war that has killed 10,000 people. The representatives delivered brief speeches in the daylong session, then were to issue the non-binding final declaration.

Security Council resolutions are considered legally binding, but Council statements and declarations carry only moral, not legal weight. A statement backed by world leaders on the most powerful U.N. body, which in 1990 authorised the allied effort to crush Iraq, could likely have bearing on future U.N. action.

On Thursday, participants held arduous negotiations over a final text, including how much to mute references to human rights and democracy out of deference to China, which has rejected criticism over its bloody 1989 crackdown on a pro-democracy movement.

Members debated how much to emphasise poverty, economic and social problems — which the developing nations wanted — and whether to pressure Israel to trade land for peace.

In the end, references to human rights, democracy and nonproliferation were retained, poverty and social problems were mentioned briefly and the draft cites council resolutions 242 and 338 which call on Israel to trade land for peace.

Among the points in the draft declaration: — Anti-Iraq Security Council resolutions must be implemented for peace in the region.

— Aggression, terrorism and threats to peace must be dealt with collectively.

The secretary-general will deliver his recommendations on improving peacekeeping, peacemaking and financing by July 1.

The countries holding rotating seats on the Security Council are currently India, Japan, Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Morocco, Venezuela, Zimbabwe and Hungary.

Mr. Major in television interviews on Friday prior to the summit, said the world community needed to prevent nuclear proliferation in lesser developed regions.

He also said China's human rights record could be improved by exposing them to what happens in other parts of the world.

He told CBS television that the world community needed to prevent nuclear proliferation, particularly in the Middle East and "parts of the Indian subcontinent and elsewhere as well."

Mr. Major called "very welcome" proposed reductions in nuclear arsenals by the United States and Russia. But he said that as nuclear technology becomes easier "we need to prevent the proliferation of that and gradually reduce the arsenals of those countries that have substantial weapons."

He told CBS, "if one wants to improve China's human rights record, it's best not to hold them at a distance and treat them as a pariah," adding that "one has to deal with China, one has to tell them what they think about human rights, one has to expose them to what happens in other parts of the world."

Though absent from the meeting, Germany is asking members of the council to consider its proposals.

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Uneasy skaters and coaches hunt for gold at Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Until now, the skating elite of the former Soviet Union avoided being dragged down by the turmoil in the Communist system's collapse.

That could soon change. So top athletes and trainers are using the Olympics to hunt for new gold — financing in addition to medals.

"Before, we got money from the government," says Natalia Dubova, one of figure skating's most influential coaches. "Now, we must have business with the West."

Dubova and other coaches worry that the new financial realities will drive many skaters out of competition.

Others see opportunity in the collapse of the once-mighty Soviet sports machine. Two-time Olympic gold medal winners Oleg and Ludmila Protopopov predict that the disappearance of centralized control will allow new talent to flourish in the newly independent republics.

"The breakup of the former Soviet Union is a good thing, because now more competitors will get to take part — for example those from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania," said Oleg.

"For the moment, the culture and style of Moscow still dominates, but this will change," he added.

The Protopopovs won gold medals at the 1964 and 1968 Olympics. They were forced to retire after running afoul of Soviet authorities and left for the West in 1979. They now live in Switzerland.

At the European Figure Skating Championships last week, skaters from the new Commonwealth of Independent States carried off eight of 12 medals — including every medal in ice dance and pairs. Most of the stars were from Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia.

That domination is expected to continue at Albertville.

But in an indication that this stranglehold may be broken by the next winter Olympics in 1994, a young Latvian skater jumped

into ninth position at his first top international event.

Konstantin Kostin, 18, was second in his year's world juniors. He started judges in Lausanne with a rare quadruple jump that only one other man completed. He was unknown before Latvia achieved independence from the Soviet Union last year.

Some of the top skaters say they have so far been shielded from the whirlwind of change around them.

"I don't understand much about the political situation. I don't know who paid before and I don't know who pays now," said Viktor Petrenko of Odessa, in the newly independent Ukraine. He was a bronze medalist in the 1988 Olympics and a gold medal hopeful at Albertville.

Alexei Urmanov, a rising star who has still to reach his full potential, disagreed.

"In Russia, it was always terrible, and now it's very terrible," he said.

"We don't know which flag we need to use and which song we will hear on the podium," Urmanov said.

To avoid disputes, the International Skating Union listed the former Soviets as its own skaters, and many were visibly unhappy at being saluted with its fanfare and blue-and-white flag at the medals ceremony.

Almost all wore warmup suits bearing the old USSR initials in Cyrillic — CCCP.

Some of the more elaborate costumes were possible only through foreign sponsorship. One Russian couple put on stickers advertising their sponsor for TV close-ups during scoring.

Tamara Moskvina, who trained many of the top skaters in the 1980s, found backing from an Italian firm for the European Championships. She coaches pairs' world champions Artur Dmitriev and Natasha Mishkutienok.

She tried with less success to get British and American sponsors for the team, whose stunning spins and spirals will be one of the



European champions Natasha Mishkutienok and Artur Dmitriev display their gold medals won in the pairs event of the European Championships in Lausanne.

main attractions in the pairs event at Albertville.

Without more sponsorship, she said, Dmitriev and Mishkutienok might decide to turn professional after the Olympics without winning for the Lillehammer Games in 1994.

"We really need money because everything changes now," said Dubova. "I hope some companies are watching the couples and the coach too."

She said she hoped government funds would last until March's World Championships in Oakland, California.

"It's after that I worry about," she said.

The legendary Dubova trains the teams of Maia Usova and Aleksandr Zhulin and Oksana Grischuk and Evgeni Platov, who placed second and third at the European Championships.

Until last year, she also coached four-time European and two-time world champions Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, who will vie for the No. 1 spot in Albertville with France's Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay.

Dubova said Zhulin and Usova had started to take part in exhibitions to bring in extra money. Dubova hopes to teach seminars when her proteges skate abroad and is looking hopefully to the United States.

"One show brings in more money than you can earn at home in months," she said.

She shrugs at questions about whether she is considering moving to the West for more lucrative opportunities. "It's a difficult question because home is home. But it's getting too tough there."

Batty fit for Leeds' home match with Notts County

LONDON (R) — Title favourites Leeds, without a home win since late November, have been boosted by the recovery from injury of England midfielder David Batty for their English League clash with Notts County Saturday.

Batty suffered a leg injury against Bayern Munich in a mid-week friendly, but manager Howard Wilkinson said he had made a full recovery for the home first division match.

Leading scorer Lee Chapman is still out with a broken wrist, so Welsh international Gary Speed continues to lead the attack.

Wilkinson said: "After two weeks without a competitive game, the rest should have done us good. Hopefully our freshness and appetite will be restored."

Leeds were out of action in last weekend's fourth round of the F.A. Cup. They were eliminated by Manchester United in the third round.

Table-topping United's Ukrainian winger Andrei Kanchelskis is back in the team against Arsenal at Highbury. He missed United's fourth round F.A. Cup tie at Southampton Monday with an ankle injury which has responded to treatment.

Manager Alex Ferguson also left teenage star Ryan Giggs on the substitute bench at Southampton when he abandoned his successful twin wing plan and opted for experience.

But Ferguson could revert to his wingers Saturday with Giggs back in action.

Arsenal's 18-year-old midfielder Ray Parlour, who made his

debut in Wednesday's 2-0 league defeat at Liverpool, is likely to retain his place because of injuries to David Hillier and Paul Davis.

Veteran defender David O'Leary, suffering from a calf injury, and Swedish international midfielder Anders Limpar, recovering from a broken jaw, are also unlikely to be fit.

Chelsea travel to Anfield in some trepidation as Liverpool, who have won five games in a row in January, warned the title favourites they also very much in the running for a 19th championship.

The eighth-placed Londoners can expect non-stop attack from a Liverpool team who have rediscovered some of the form that won them the league title seven times between 1980 and 1990.

"Leeds and Manchester United still have to visit Anfield and anything can happen," Liverpool's Danish midfielder general Jan Molby said.

"We won't give up until we are 10 points behind with three games left and it's totally impossible."

United top the table with 55 points, two more than Leeds and eight ahead of third-placed Liverpool.

The Scottish Premier League programme features the visit of champions and leaders Rangers to second placed Hearts.

Former England striker Mark Hateley, who has not played for Rangers since Jan. 1 because of a thigh problem, looks set to return after missing five matches.

Sabatini, Navratilova win, Sanchez upset in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Top seeds Gabriela Sabatini and Martina Navratilova reached the semifinals but Arantxa Sanchez Vicario failed to join them at the Pan Pacific Open indoor tennis tournament Friday.

Top seed Sabatini, the defending champion, shrugged off a strong challenge from unseeded American Pam Shriver to win her quarterfinal match 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 after being 4-1 down in the final set.

The world number three from Argentina managed to break Shriver's service in the sixth game and went on to take the match with a series of sparkling service return winners.

Sabatini won plays unseeded Japanese Kimiko Date who produced the day's major upset by dispatching the former French Open champion Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 6-4.

"Today was not my day. I

made a lot of mistakes," said Sanchez Vicario, ranked fifth in the world.

The second-seeded Navratilova, bidding for an unprecedented 158th career title in women's tennis, scored a comfortable 6-4, 6-3 win over eighth seed Laura Gildemeister.

In November, Navratilova equalled Evert's record of 157 titles when she beat world number one Monica Seles of Yugoslavia to win the Virginia Slims of California.

Navratilova, playing her first competitive tournament this year, will play fast-improving Bulgarian teenager Magdalena Maleeva in her semifinal.

The unseeded Maleeva, a surprise 6-1, 6-2 winner over fourth seed Jennifer Capriati, followed up that win with a 6-2, 6-4 success over fifth seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia.

Japan's winning streak ends in America's Cup

SAN DIEGO (R) — Japan's luck ran out and its winning streak ended Thursday when a steering problem forced Nippon to retire one hour 40 minutes into an America's Cup Challenger's Race against New Zealand. At the time, Japan's skipper Chris Dick-

son, a New Zealander, was one minute 56 seconds behind the boat from his homeland. "It was a five dollar item that broke. It's sitting in my car now," Dickson said after the race. "It takes two minutes to replace."

Swaziland to make Winter Olympic Games debut

MBABANE, Swaziland (R) — The Winter Olympics have become the talk of Swaziland, where memories of freak snows in 1960 still set tongues wagging.

Scottish-born Keith Fraser says he hopes to scoop a medal for the tiny African country when he makes Swaziland's debut at next month's Albertville games.

As the tiny southern African country's one-man Alpine skiing team, the 23-year-old will compete in the slalom and giant slalom.

"I have been training with the Swiss, Dutch, Italian and Au-

stralian teams and I have picked up a lot in terms of techniques," said Fraser, who has been preparing in Austria for three months.

"Training with better skiers is giving me better chance," Fraser, who studies civil engineering in the French city of Lyon, moved to Swaziland from Edinburgh with his parents in 1977 and became a citizen last year. He won 10 years ago to compete in a Winter Olympics for his adopted country.

"Friends laughed at me," said Fraser. "Now they realise how serious I was."

Cantona leaves English club after just one week

SHEFFIELD, England (AP) — French soccer striker Eric Cantona quit English club Sheffield Wednesday Friday after refusing to extend his trial period for a second week.

Wednesday was about to hire Cantona on loan until the end of the season provided he proved himself in training.

But because of freezing weather

conditions, Cantona, who arrived Monday, has only been able to train indoors or on an artificial surface. Wednesday manager Trevor Francis asks him to stay another week but Cantona refused.

"I wanted Eric to stay on trial for another week in the hope that the weather would improve and I could see him on grass."

Thoren advances to first semifinal in N. Zealand

AUCKLAND (AP) — Petra Thoren of Finland upset sixth-seeded Italian Raffaella Reggi-Concato 6-3, 6-2 Friday to advance to the semifinals of the \$100,000 Nutri-Metics Classic women's tennis tournament.

Thoren, an unseeded 22-year-old from Helsinki, reached the first semifinal of her career.

Top-seeded Andrea Stanadova of Czechoslovakia, No. 3 seed Larisa Savchenko-Neiland of Latvia and unseeded American Robin White also progressed.

Stanadova struggled past fifth-seeded Alexia Dechaume of France 7-6 (7-3), 6-7 (6-8), 6-2 while Savchenko-Neiland outplayed No. 8 Bettina Fulco-Villola of Argentina 6-2, 6-4.

White defeated Monique Javer

of Britain 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Stanadova will play Savchenko-Neiland in the semis, while Thoren faces White.

Thoren kept Reggi-Concato under constant pressure with her solid groundstrokes. The Italian, who has not played since June because of a foot injury, never came to terms with the difficult windy conditions.

"That's the way I like to play. It was one of my best matches," Thoren said after playing aggressively to win in just 63 minutes.

"I knew I had to go out and win the points because hitting from the baseline with her would have been too tough."

White, a 28-year-old from Del Mar, California, recovered from a slow start to beat Javer.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to purchase attractive articles and appliances that can make your work easier as well as provide you with greater comfort and efficiency. Do things of a practical nature.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Knowing how best to utilize past conditions to present conditions can be a puzzlement to you early while you are most creative in ideas.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Secret plans to go off on a tangent can bring much difficulty until later when you find your family will join you, other persons at home pleasures.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Sidestep a strange situation between attachment and a friend early while later you can visit with outside contacts and have a most fascinating time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Look for a squabble to puzzlement if you are around a bigwig and an associate and avoid it as it's not your concern which is to concentrate upon more abundance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Uncertainty about when to work and when to relax needs to be decided another time while today you concentrate upon getting your personal longings.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You would be wise to put off

recreations that are too rich for your pocketbook and instead quietly arrange future goals with experts you know.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Conflicts between a family member and an outsider can lead to much friction for you too if you get involved and instead get together with fine friends.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) To avoid problems schedule your time so you can both attack to routine duties as well as be off on visits while later go out on the town and have a good time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An urge to spend more money on pleasures should be stifled in the morning while later you can be off to interesting new places and gain headway.

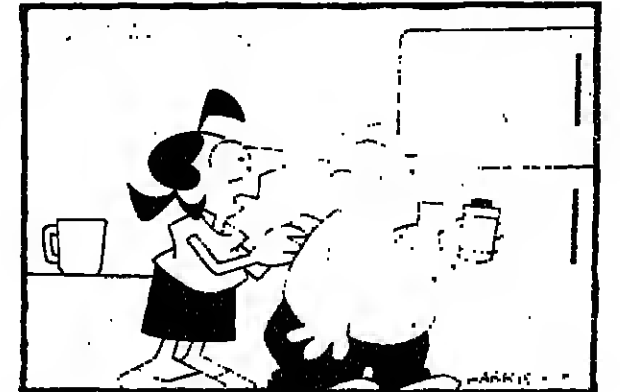
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your own ideas and those of your family disagree early so take up wishes later while you tend to some business needs on the outside.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Staying close to problems that muddle your thinking keeps you from outside activities that are good for you, so later do some unusual public expression.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A friend looks with eager eyes towards some of your assets but you need to keep them for yourself while later you can schedule coming tasks.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"The weed killer didn't work. You've still got hair on your back."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henn Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORDOB

SOPIE

TOTIPE

GENNIE

Dear, you shouldn't worry so much.



A PERSON WHO'S ALWAYS IN A STEW GENERALLY DOES THIS.

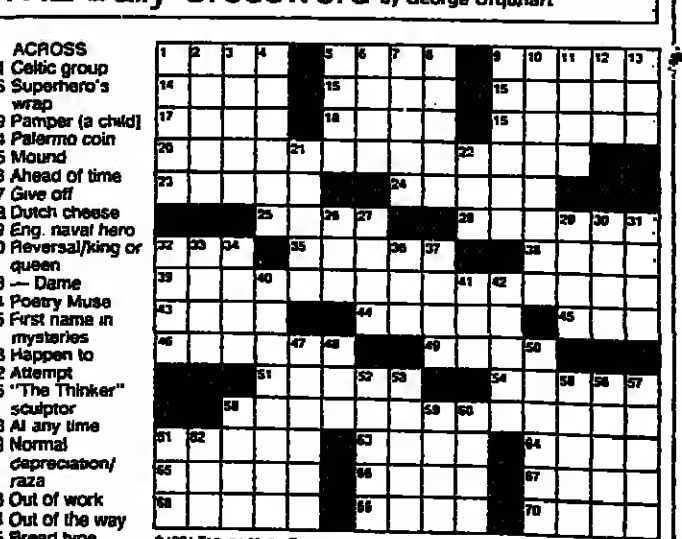
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: TO

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: INKED NATAL AROUND LAYOFF
Answer: What happened when he got the bill for the new carpet—HE WAS FLOOFED

THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Cello group
2. Superhero's
3. Pumper (a child)
4. Palermo coin
5. Mound
6. Ahead of time
7. Give off
8. Dutch cheese
9. Eng. naval hero
10. Reversal/firing or queen
11. Dams
12. Poem by Shakespeare
13. First name in mysteries
14. Happen to
15. Stage award
16. "The Thinker" sculptor
17. At any time
18. Normal depression/raza
19. Out of work
20. Out of the way
21. 45 Best type
22. Nutty confection
23. Theater box
24. WWII message
25. Muslim religion
26. Ump's call/Muncie school
27. Pseudonym
28. Stage award
29. Confused
30. "Interno" author
31. Was carried on
32. Sea for hire
33. Actor Chaney
34. Norse epic
35. Actor Novello
36. Rone
37. Sea bird
38. One of a pair
39. Change the decor
40. China border
41. A boy
42. Playwright
43. Simon
44. Control
45. Head cook
46. Radames' love

47. Degraded
48. Playing
49. Will subject
50. Call off a space
51. mission
52. No-no
53. Light beam
54. M. T. TV series
55. Actress Anne
56. P.J. measure
57. report
58. On's cousin
59. OK town
60. Fond du Lac, Wis.

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK 11:11 Date: 29.1.92	TOKYO 11:15 Date: 30.1.92
Sterling Pound	1.7980	1.7913
Deutsche Mark	1.6020	1.6050
Swiss Franc	1.4288	1.4315
French Franc	5.2901	5.2995 **
Japanese Yen	127.75	127.65
European Currency Unit	1.375	1.3715 **

1SD Per 100
European Spending 10:30 a.m. GMT

Interbank interest rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	9.10	9.10	9.15	9.50
Sterling Pound	10.10	10.15	10.18	10.12
Deutsche Mark	7.15	7.15	7.17	7.18
Swiss Franc	7.12	7.12	7.18	7.12
French Franc	9.10	9.10	9.15	9.50
Japanese Yen	127.75	127.75	127.75	127.75
European Currency Unit	10.10	10.15	10.18	10.12

Precious Metals	USD 100	USD 100	USD 100	USD 100
Gold	375.15	375.15	375.15	375.15
Silver	10.15	10.15	10.15	10.15

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.67	0.67
Sterling Pound	1.2151	1.2192
Deutsche Mark	0.2151	0.2192
Swiss Franc	0.2151	0.2192
French Franc	0.2151	0.2192
Japanese Yen	0.2151	0.2192
Dutch Guilder	0.2151	0.2192
Swedish Krona	0.2151	0.2192
Italian Lira	0.2151	0.2192
Belgian Franc	0.2151	0.2192

Currency	Buy	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7600	1.7750
Lebanese Lira	0.075	0.085
Saudi Riyal	1.805	1.815
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	1.185	1.195
Egyptian Pound	2.000	2.000
Omani Riyal	1.730	1.740
UAE Dirham	1.835	1.845
Greek Drachma	0.640	0.650
Cypriot Pound	1.4800	1.5000

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	28.1.92	Close	29.1.92	Close
All-Share	123.96		133.63	
Banking Sector	110.62		109.75	
Insurance Sector	131.71		131.70	
Industry Sector	168.05		168.42	
Services Sector	152.42		152.81	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7820/30	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1747/52	Canadian dollar
	1.6130/40	Deutsche marks
	1.8165/75	Dutch guilders
	1.4342/52	Swiss francs
	33.22/26	Belgian francs
	5.4965/15	French francs
	1212/1213	Italian lire
	125.40/50	Japanese yen
	5.8610/3320	Swedish crowns
	6.3270/3320	Norwegian crowns
	6.6575/6625	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	354.00/354.50	U.S. dollars

Irish finance minister trims income tax in cautious budget

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Finance Minister Bertie Ahern trimmed income tax in his first national budget but kept a tight rein on state spending in mid-recession.

In a major shakeup of the Irish taxation system, he reduced the basic rate of income tax from 29 to 27 per cent and brought the top rate down from 52 to 48 per cent.

But, in a broadly neutral budget, the giveaways were balanced by higher indirect taxes with the value added tax going up from 12.5 per cent to 16 per cent on a whole range of items from telephone bills to shoes and clothes.

The budget certainly bore the stamp of the Progressive Democrats who had been pushing for major tax reforms in what is regarded as one of the most heavily taxed countries in Europe.

In his 100-minute speech to a packed parliament, Mr. Ahern put up the price of cigarettes and

World Bank urges Egypt to speed up reforms in three key areas

CAIRO (R) — The World Bank has urged Egypt to speed up economic reform, including privatising the sick public sector, while the economy is performing better than expected.

Caio Koch-Weser, the bank's vice president for the Middle East to North Africa, told a news conference he had discussed with Egyptian officials "the impressive progress in many areas and our concern about lack of progress in a few areas."

He said Egypt should take advantage of better than expected economic growth to press ahead with three parts of its ambitious plans:

- Further liberalisation of prices, trade and investment
- Public sector reform
- Establishment of a social fund to tackle unemployment and other social problems likely to be caused by economic change.

"The improved economic performance and the balance of payments cushion that the country

now enjoys offer an excellent opportunity in our view for the government to accelerate the structural reforms," Mr. Koch-Weser said.

Egypt's economic reform programme, which began in March 1990, has been agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Success in the programme will bring forgiveness of \$10 billion of Egypt's \$40 billion foreign debt.

Mr. Koch-Weser said the bank believed Egypt could have acted faster over the last year to identify an initial list of efficient public-sector businesses which could be sold to private investors.

"The public enterprise reform and privatisation efforts have so far been slower than expected and measures need to be vigorously pursued to implement the programme in this area," he added.

Mr. Koch-Weser said the government had promised quick action.

A Western economist said officials in a newly-established Public Enterprise Office, helped by U.S.-funded consultants, had started work to identify companies for privatisation and results could be expected in one to three months.

"You want some good examples to fire up the place," he said. The economist said the bank had been expecting Egypt's gross domestic product (GDP) to fall by 1.5 per cent in the fiscal year which ended on June 30, 1991 but in fact it had grown by two per cent.

The bank had originally forecast a three per cent fall in GDP in fiscal 1992 but had revised this to growth of one per cent. Inflation had been anticipated to rise to an annual rate of 30 per cent or more but was in fact running at 20 to 25 per cent.

The economist said tourism, Suez Canal revenues and remittances from Egyptians working

Iranian parliament scales down oil income

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's parliament has approved an estimate of \$19.8 billion for Iran's hard-currency oil earnings in the 1992-93 financial year, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) has reported.

The original budget bill had predicted foreign exchange earnings of \$23.4 billion but IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said the projection was scaled down by the parliament.

Banking sources quoted by the AP-Dow Jones News Service said it may reflect more modest expectations of oil earnings following the recent sharp fall in oil prices.

When the budget debate began, some deputies criticised the government for what they called unrealistic revenue projections.

Iran produces about 3.4 million barrels of oil a day, making it the second largest producer after Saudi Arabia in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

IRNA said the Iranian oil ministry was allocated a hard currency budget of \$1.3 billion for importing petroleum products, which will be financed through the sale of 279,000 barrels a day of crude oil.

The parliament also approved a 100 billion riyals (\$1.4 billion) credit to finance a project to pipe natural gas to Iranian homes.

Kohl sees no recession trend in German economy

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl has said he saw no recessionary tendencies in the German economy and was cautiously optimistic about improved growth prospects in future.

Mr. Kohl told foreign journalists Germany expected a growth rate of about two per cent this year, with the economy in the ex-communist east expanding by 10 per cent or more.

"I see no recession tendency in Germany's development, as long as we are reasonable with wage settlements," he said, without setting any preferred target for labour agreements.

"I think the dynamism of the German economy remains, maybe a bit weakened, but that comes from developments in the world economy," he added.

The chancellor said he was cautiously optimistic about future growth because medium- and long-term interest rates had been falling for about a year.

Germany would continue putting strong emphasis on fighting inflation to promote economic stability and defend the value of the mark.

"We cannot have inflation rates in the range that have developed," Mr. Kohl said. "We must get back to our old levels, and the sooner the better. I think, with reasonable (wage) decisions, this will work."

He declined to comment on the possible effect of threatened strikes.

Bonn said in its first economic forecast for a united Germany it

expected the economy to expand by more than two per cent this year.

A draft of the government's annual economic report, approved by Mr. Kohl's cabinet, said the western economy would grow by one to two per cent and the east's by about 10 per cent.

It said German consumer prices would rise by five per cent this year, with western inflation at 3.5 per cent and eastern inflation at 12 to 14 per cent.

The west German economy would be spurred by foreign demand in 1992 instead of demand from the former communist region, as has happened in the past two years, government sources said.

Western Germany's gross national product (GNP) expanded by a provisional 3.2 per cent in 1991, after 4.5 per cent in 1990.

The success of the Uruguay Round of trade talks, aimed at liberalising world trade, would be the key for an upswing in the western economy, the sources said.

But they added: "The economic impulse from exports should not be estimated too high as the recovery of global economy will raise capital goods demand only a little at the beginning."

Bonn predicts German exports will show a rise of between three and four per cent this year, they said.

The high economic growth expected in eastern Germany is due to its extraordinarily low starting point. Bonn still expects the region to be dependent on government transfers and investments support for a long time, taking time to develop new products and win a market share.

Bonn expects nationwide unemployment of around eight per cent this year, with a western rate of about six per cent and an eastern rate of about 17 per cent.

The government sources said low productivity and rapidly rising wages in eastern Germany would accelerate the loss of jobs and make it difficult to create new ones.

The government expects west German wages to increase by five per cent this year and eastern pay to jump 20 to 25 per cent.

Nationwide investment is forecast to rise by between 4.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent, with a two to three per cent increase in the west and a 20 to 25 per cent surge in the east.

African leaders open summit with call to merge two economic blocs

LUSAKA (Agencies) — Leaders from 18 southern and east African nations met in Zambia Thursday to hear calls for the merger of two regional economic blocs to pave the way for a common market.

Heads of state and ministers at the 10th summit of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for eastern and southern Africa urged that the organisation merge with the 10-nation Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC).

The continued existence of the two organisations was criticised as a waste of resources and an obstacle to achieving the PTA's target of a common market by the year 2000.

Speakers said that after three decades of independence African economies were mired in misery and choking in debt while resources were depleted by wars and strife.

"Africa is in trouble... our economies are in dire straits. Internationally we find no more support for command economies," Zambian President Frederick Chiluba said in his opening address.

"When we turn to the next step in laying the foundation for an African economic community... the first issue must be the merging of the PTA and SADCC," he said after taking over the PTA's chairmanship for a year from Swaziland's King Mswati III.

"There was a time when two separate organisations could be justified, but times have changed. We need to overhaul, renew and restructure these organisations to make the future happen rather than react to it," Mr. Chiluba added.

King Mswati said there was duplication in the activities and aims of the PTA and SADCC.

SADCC, which groups Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, was formed in 1980 to lessen these countries' economic dependence on South Africa.

The PTA, which includes the above countries except Botswana, along with Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda, was set up in 1982 to promote intra-regional trade.

estimated at 10 per cent of the region's trade with the whole world.

Mr. Chiluba called for greater democracy, saying it was vital for economic development and the forming of a common market.

"I can point out that democracy promotes peace, democracy builds stability. Without democracy the common market is doomed. Without a working common market, Africa will career into economic orbit in outer space, with no place in this world," he said, adding that the PTA should work for speedy democratic changes in South Africa.

"Instead of waiting for change in South Africa, we must work for change," Mr. Chiluba said.

SAMAREC reports \$9b worth of oil sales in 1990

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — State-owned Saudi Arabian Marketing and Refining Company (SAMAREC) said it sold oil and products worth \$9 billion in 1990, its first full operating year.

Sales were boosted by the demands of the U.S.-led allies who poured into the kingdom to counter the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, in an introduction to the annual report, described 1990 as a "harvest year for SAMAREC".

Jeddah-based SAMAREC was set up at the end of 1989, primarily to manage the kingdom's refineries and sell Saudi Arabia's refined products at home and abroad.

During the Gulf crisis, Sheikh Nazer said, SAMAREC "revealed the solid foundation of the new stage to rebuild the Saudi oil industry."

Thousands of allied tanks and warplanes were based in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf crisis.

SAMAREC provided most of the oil and products needed by the allies to keep their war-machine running, the costs of which were met by Saudi Arabia.

The agency marketed 6.4 million tonnes of crude oil, 8.6 million tonnes of oil products and 641,545 tonnes of liquefied gas.

SAMAREC, which manages six of seven refineries in Saudi Arabia, said it boosted production capacity at three refineries in late 1990 to meet increasing demands during the Gulf crisis.

Production capacity of Yanbu refinery was increased by 50,000 barrels per day (b/d) to 170,000 b/d and then to 200,000 b/d. Riyadh refinery to 140,000 b/d from 120,000 b/d and Jeddah refinery to 95,000 b/d from 84,000 b/d.

The Jordan Hotel Association

welcomes H.E. Mr. Baylet, the French minister of tourism, and the accompanying delegation of hoteliers and travel agents on their visit to Jordan which will pave the way of cooperation between the private sectors in tourism in the two countries.

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in

ROADHOUSE

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Ninja Turtles

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Noor Al Sharif
in

Naji Al Ali

Arabic

Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Yugoslav, Serbian leaders try to salvage U.N. peace plan

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav and Serbian leaders began key talks with Serbian hardliners from Croatia Friday to try to persuade them to accept the deployment of 10,000 United Nations peacekeeping troops in Yugoslavia.

The State presidency invited all the top pro-Serb leaders from across the country to the meeting after Serbian leaders in Croatia blocked U.N. envoy Marrack Goulding's attempts to win agreement to the proposals during a five-day mission this week.

The presidency is expected to warn Milan Babic, the leader of Croatia's Serb-dominated enclave of Krajina, he will face unspecified sanctions if he does not accept the U.N. plan.

But signs emerged Croatian authorities also oppose parts of the U.N. plan and are determined to win back control of the territory they have lost in seven months of fighting.

"This will be a very important meeting for the leaders of Serbia and Krajina," a Belgrade-based diplomat said. "There is a stand-off between the two camps here. But the problems are not just in Krajina, they are also in Zagreb."

In a sign of the urgency of the talks, the presidency also invited Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Serbian leaders from the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia allies from the Republic of Montenegro. Tanjug News Agency said.

The talks were held behind closed doors and it was not immediately confirmed who was attending.

The meeting, just one day after Mr. Goulding's departure, is a vital part of the Serbian leadership's attempts to get the U.N. peacekeepers in place before the warm weather returns and increases the risk of more fighting erupting.

A ceasefire has held since Jan. 3 but more than 6,000 people have been killed since June in clashes between Croatian militia and Serbian irregulars backed by the Yugoslav army.

The 600,000 Serbs in Croatia want no part of the Croatian state which won international recognition on Jan. 15 and Serbs have seized control of about one-third of Croatian land.

Mr. Babic opposes U.N. prop-

osals to disarm Serbian forces in his region while Croatian militia outside Krajina are allowed to keep their weapons. He has said he will defy any presidency threats to force him to back the U.N. plan.

Even if Mr. Babic toes the line, Croatia also appears to reject key parts of the plan. Mr. Goulding said Croatia had reservations but diplomats said its objections were a big setback.

"The greatest obstacle in my opinion is still the non-acceptance of Croatia," Borisav Jovic, Serbia's member of the four-man collective presidency, said Thursday night.

Diplomats said they believed Croatian President Franjo Tudman wanted to regain administrative control of lost land.

"There is a major difference in the Croatian view of the U.N. role in keeping control. They want to re-establish the status of their police (control) through Croatia," one diplomat said.

Stjepan Hecceg, a member of the ruling Croatian Democratic Union, said Thursday Croatia must win back its land — with or without the help of the U.N.

The ceasefire held in many parts of Croatia Friday but Croatian radio accused Serbian-led forces of shelling areas around Osijek in eastern Croatia overnight and reported increased flights by the Yugoslav Air Force.

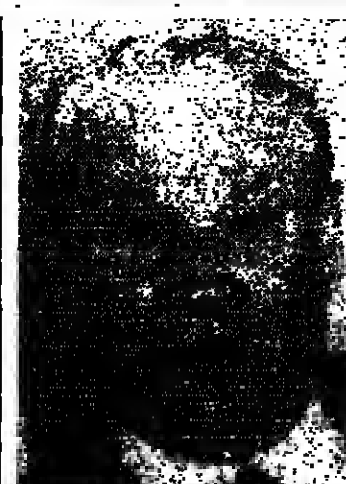
Tanjung reported a Croatian infantry attack in the Baranja area of eastern Croatia but mentioned no casualties.

Mr. Goulding said Wednesday he could not recommend sending peacekeeping forces to Yugoslavia at this stage and more work had to be done on the U.N. plan.

Mr. Goulding said after meeting Serbian, Croatian and Yugoslav army leaders in the last four days he saw positive signs but not all conditions had been met.

"There... remain certain differences of interpretation about the plan and more work needs to be done on resolving these," Mr. Goulding told reporters after talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

"All those on whom the success of an operation would depend need to have accepted the plan and to be ready to cooperate with the United Nations peacekeeping force when it is employed."



Boris Yeltsin

Yeltsin faces U.S. image problem

NEW YORK (R) — In the United States, where image can be everything, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has a problem.

Is he the "boozing Boris" of rumour or a John Wayne-type hero who stood on a tank, foiled a coup and brought down communism?

Mr. Yeltsin, in New York for a United Nations Security Council summit, seems unlikely at this early stage to win the hearts of Americans as did his predecessor Mikhail Gorbachev with "Gorbymania".

The problem is timing as well as image.

Mr. Yeltsin, who was greeted by cheering crowds on previous visits, this time comes to the United States at a grim moment for Americans. They are deeply worried about their economy and more concerned with domestic problems than foreign affairs.

Some commentators have wryly speculated that Mr. Yeltsin and President George Bush may spend more time commiserating about their countries' economic woes than discussing nuclear arms.

The talks could result in major agreements on curbing nuclear weaponry and saving the new Commonwealth of Independent States from economic disaster.

In 1989, the first time Mr. Yeltsin, then an opposition figure, came to the United States, he made a stirring speech at New York's Columbia University that had the audience on its feet.

But the trip was downhill after that. He went on to a cool meeting with Mr. Bush who kept him at arms length and arrived back in Moscow to face charges by the Soviet media that he drank his way across the country.

Rumours of his drinking still persist in the American media and one paper, the New York Post, ran a front-page headline this week screaming "boozing Boris".

The subject of his alleged drinking came up in an ABC Television interview in Moscow and he strongly denied that he hit the bottle.

The optimism that Mr. Gorbachev brought to a revitalised Soviet Union has given way in the United States to images of people fighting for political stability and personal survival.

Add the press reports of Mr. Yeltsin cancelling appointments, disappearing for three days and you have an image problem.

In New York's "Little Odessa" district where thousands of Russian immigrants live, the feeling is mixed about Mr. Yeltsin.

"I don't like him. And my friend here, doesn't either," said Rosa Kucherobski.

"He drinks too much. He is doing everything wrong in Russia. There is no food," added Mr. Kucherobski, who is from Kiev.

"Yeltsin? He is not a good man. The country is worse off now. He is all talk. I preferred Gorbachev," said blonde-haired Goldie Shapiro, 60.

"I don't think anything about this damn Russian Yeltsin. The whole system is no good," said Roman Sosinsky, 44, who comes from Baku and is the owner of an electronic store.

But Mr. Yeltsin has many supporters in the exile community.

"I don't see anyone who can compare with Yeltsin," said Mark Doiban, 49, a furrier from the Ukraine.

"He put an end to the cold war. And now we have to help him," Mr. Doiban said.

"Yeltsin is a good man. He's nearer to the people. But I also loved Gorbachev," said Emily Pavlova, from Leningrad.

Roger Smith of Harvard University believes Mr. Yeltsin's performance during his visit could be crucial for his dealings with the United States.

"You still have some people in the U.S. government who look down their noses at Boris Yeltsin," Mr. Smith said.

Mr. Smith said while Mr. Gorbachev had to use foreign policy to influence domestic policy, Mr. Yeltsin's task during his visit was to play well to Americans and the international community.

Azeris launch attack on Karabakh — Armenia

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijani forces Friday launched an attack on Armenian positions in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian Defence Ministry said.

"The Azeris began an offensive at 10.15 this morning. That much I can say," a ministry spokesman said by telephone from the Armenian capital Yerevan.

The Azeri News Agency, Turan, said Azeri forces had started attacking positions held by Armenian militants in Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous enclave claimed by both republics.

Azerbaijani had vowed to launch a new offensive against Armenian guerrillas whom it accused of shooting down a helicopter Tuesday and killing at least 50 people.

An official at Azerbaijan's Interior Ministry denied the republic had launched an attack on the enclave.

"It's absurd. There has been no special attack on Nagorno-Karabakh," Asilard Guseinov said by telephone from Baku.

"There is nothing unusual going on. It's just the usual clashes between Azeri Interior Ministry troops and Armenian guerrillas," he said.

Tensions have risen sharply since the helicopter crash, which followed one of the bloodiest weeks of fighting in a four-year dispute over the territory, populated mostly by Armenians but located in and administered by Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijan People's Front said Armenian infantry supported by heavy artillery had stormed the town of Agdam Friday morning after firing missiles.

The front's news service, quoted by Russian Radio, said the attackers had been repelled by local militias and self-defence forces. Heavy fighting was continuing round the town, just outside Nagorno-Karabakh, it said.

A spokeswoman for Zorya Balayan, a prominent representative of the Armenian population in Karabakh, said Azeri forces had attacked many points in the enclave using tanks.

"The village of Khrumort has been destroyed in an attack by 500 soldiers plus two tanks. Bloodshed is taking place," she said by telephone in Moscow.

Armenia's Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian Thursday said he favoured sending European peacekeeping troops to prevent the conflict exploding into a Yugoslav-style civil war.

The parliament of Nagorno-Karabakh said Azerbaijan had launched a full-scale attack using tanks, armoured cars and artillery.

The capital Stepanakert and other towns were under heavy artillery bombardment, the parliament said in an appeal quoted by the Interfax News Agency.

All communications to Nagorno-Karabakh were cut off. Meanwhile in Prague, Europe's leading security forum decided Friday to send an urgent fact-finding team to report on worsening conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) ordered the team to report back within three weeks on the ethnic strife in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Its decision marked the first attempt by the expanded 48-member organisation to intervene in a conflict within the former Soviet Union. Armenia, Azerbaijan and eight other former Soviet republics joined the CSCE Thursday.

"The new initiative today is to try and bring the matter urgently within the CSCE. The fact-finding mission is a step to try to achieve that," Britain's Junior Foreign Minister Douglas Hogg told a news conference.

Senior officials would examine the team's report and consider what further steps should be taken, he said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Miyazawa pledges peacekeeping role

NEW YORK (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa promised the United Nations Friday that Japan would play an active role in U.N. peacekeeping operations. In his speech prepared for delivery to a U.N. Security Council summit, Mr. Miyazawa failed to request that Japan be given a permanent council seat to match its financial contribution to the world body. He only stressed that countries extending "considerable" financial support to peacekeeping operations, be involved in the process of setting up such projects from an early stage. Aware of the growing importance of U.N. peacekeeping operations, Japan is striving to make necessary changes for it to contribute military personnel, Mr. Miyazawa said. "I will do my utmost to have the relevant legislation approved by the Japanese Diet (parliament) during its current session," he said.

N. Korea allows nuclear inspection

SEOUL (R) — North Korea said Friday it would ratify as soon as possible a nuclear safeguards accord and accept "with dignity" inspection of its secret nuclear facilities. North Korea, believed by South Korea, the United States and Japan to be within a year of being able to make its own atomic bomb, signed the accord at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna Thursday. According to the official Korean Central News Agency, Pyongyang said it "declares once again that we will ratify the nuclear safeguards accord in the shortest possible time and then accept with dignity a nuclear inspection according to procedures agreed upon with the International Atomic Energy Agency."

Woman testifies in Tyson case

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — The woman accusing Mike Tyson of raping her spent more than three hours on witness stand Thursday, giving in graphic detail her account of what occurred in the champion's hotel suite last July. The alleged victim, an 18-year-old college student from Rhode Island who met Tyson, 25, when she was in town as a contestant in the Miss Black America Beauty Pageant, testified that the boxer threw her on the bed and raped her, inflicting "excruciating" pain. Some legal observers said the jury might have a problem believing how the alleged victim could be so much at ease in telling her version of what happened last July 19.

Murder-suicide reported at U.S. clinic

ROCHESTER, Minnesota (R) — A patient at the renowned Mayo clinic was shot to death Thursday by a visitor who then committed suicide, the clinic said. The clinic's reputation for innovative care draws the wealthy, celebrities and the desperate in search of cures. "Shortly before dawn this morning a patient on a medical unit at St. Mary's Hospital was shot and killed in the hospital room by a visitor," the clinic said. "The visitor, who was a close friend of the patient, then died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound," it added. The clinic did not identify the patient or visitor and would not give any information about them.

U.S. hijacker killed after bus chase

COLTON, California (R) — An unemployed bus driver anxious to return home hijacked a bus with eight passengers, including a baby, and led police on a 320-mile (515 km) high-speed chase before they shot him dead in front of his house. Police in cars and helicopters chased Reynaldo Gonzales, 32, for 4½ hours at up to 70 miles (110 km) an hour. Gonzales, a former Greyhound driver who was unemployed and stranded in Phoenix, Arizona, had told bus workers he was having religious visions. He slipped into the driver's seat while the driver was away and sped off.

U.S. to reduce overseas bases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military will halt or cut back operations at 83 additional military sites in Europe, the Defence Department has announced. The move is another step in a process that is expected to shut down or reduce activities at 492 installations — about one-third of all military sites outside the United States, the department said Thursday. The reductions and closures primarily affect Germany, where most U.S. troops are based, and involve army infantry, armour, field artillery and engineer units. Department spokesman Pete Williams also announced that the troop reductions underway in Europe are moving ahead of schedule, with 20,000 additional men and women expected to leave their posts by October.

COLUMN

Australia halts ordination of 11 women priests

SYDNEY (R) — Opponents of plan to ordain Australia's first Anglican women priests had the prayers answered Friday when court banned the ordination service from going ahead. But the head of the Anglican Church Australia, Archbishop Keith Rayner, expressed dismay at the decision and said further legal action was possible. The decision to halt the ceremony "in no way resolves the question of the ordination of women," he said. "I am dismayed at the prospect of further protracted legal argumentation that may lie ahead," he said in a statement. Archbishop Rayner said he felt deeply for the women deacons whose hopes for ordination had been dashed at the last minute. An appeal court had earlier overturned a decision in the New South Wales Supreme Court which would have allowed the ordination of 11 women to Bishop Owen Dowling of Canberra. The three appeal judges said it was their unanimous opinion that the conclusions of Justice Andrew Rogers in the supreme court were wrong. This meant the injunction sought by a lay member of the church and two priests was put into force.

British kidnapper flees with ransom

LONDON (R) — A kidnapper was on the run with a £175,000 (\$315,500) ransom after setting free a terrified young woman he had held for eight days. Stephanie Slater, a 25-year-old property saleswoman, ran weeping into her mother's arms after a huge police operation involving 1,000 officers and 500 cars led to her release. Police, fearing for Ms Slater's safety, had imposed a press blackout on the case, which mirrored a disappearance in 1981 of another property agent, Suzie Lamphugh, who is presumed dead. Ms Slater was seized by her captor, who was armed with a chisel, as she showed him round a house in the midlands city of Birmingham last week.

Japan women to spend more on their Valentines

TOKYO (R) — Japanese women look set to throw caution to the winds this Valentine's Day and buy chocolate gifts for the men in their lives despite the economic downturn. A survey by one Tokyo department store chain showed women expected to spend an average of 9,700 yen (\$76) on chocolates this year, almost 3,000 yen (\$23) up on 1991. In a twist to Valentine's Day traditions in the West, males in Japan get to sit back each Feb. 14 women heap presents on them. Though many of the gifts are romantic in inspiration, Valentine's chocolates in Japan are often given from a sense of obligation to bosses and work colleagues. A crafty retail trade has made sure of double profits, however, by inventing "white day" on March 14. That is when all those men who got Valentine's Day gifts are supposed to reciprocate with a gift of their own — white chocolate, for example, of white panies. The survey, by the Kein Shure chain, showed men seemingly just as oblivious of the dragging economy.

World checker king reclaims title

PETAL, Mississippi (AP) — Charles Walker has reclaimed his title as world checker king by playing 229 games simultaneously, defeating 227 contestants, losing one contest and tying nine. "I am going home and eat me a steak," Mr. Walker said after completing his last match of the day at the National Checker Hall of Fame in this suburb of Hattiesburg. "After dinner I am going right to sleep because I have been on my feet all day." That was eight hours of steady play. Mr. Walker, founder of the Checker Hall of Fame, often paused less than 10 seconds to make his move as he hurried from board to board. Walker's 227 victories Saturday breaks the record of 221, held by Canadian Army Maj. H. Roy White, who recorded his feat on Oct. 27, 1990, in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. Before Maj. White, Mr. Walker had been champion for more than two years. Mr. Walker's only defeat Saturday came on the board of Marian Tinsley, 65, of Tallahassee, Florida, world checker champion for 37 years before retiring undefeated from active competition.

Vice president accuses Yeltsin of leading Russia to economic ruin

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian Vice President Alexander Rutskoi accused his boss of leading Russia to economic ruin just as President Boris N. Yeltsin left for Britain.

In a biting critical article on the front page of the former Communist Party daily Pravda, Mr. Rutskoi renewed charges that Mr. Yeltsin's reform programme was rudderless and ultimately could destroy Russia.

Mr. Rutskoi, several other Russian leaders and papers such as Pravda have been coalescing into an opposition movement trying to express the anger of Russians coping since the beginning of January with a tough market reform that has raised prices by several times.

Mr. Rutskoi, a former military officer, warned that the breakup of the Soviet Union could be repeated within Russia itself.

Echoing one of the main tenets of centuries of Russian political practice, he called for a strong central government to prevent the more than 100 ethnic groups from breaking up in chaos.

He appealed to Russian national pride — including the military — to help hold the country together and indicated Russians might actually be tempted to expand to recover past glories.

However, a strong centre would not result in discrimination against minorities, Mr. Rutskoi said.

Mr. Yeltsin, after announcing dramatic cuts in Russian nuclear forces Wednesday, left for Britain, the United States and Canada.

In New York, he will claim the former Soviet Union's seat on the U.N. Security Council. He also will meet with President George Bush at the presidential retreat, Camp David, Maryland.

But as Mr. Yeltsin was leaving on a trip boosting his own international prestige and of his country's, Mr. Rutskoi was warning that Russia easily could disintegrate.

"People will not long tolerate Russia's crisis situation, which became particularly clear in the very first weeks after price liberalisation," said Mr. Rutskoi, who was chosen Mr. Yeltsin's running mate to widen the reformer's appeal rather than because of the compatibility of their views.

Economic chaos will lead people to seek local solutions that disregard Moscow and may push the country to disintegration, he said.

"One must be absolutely naive to think that the Soviet Union's disintegration will not trigger a

corresponding reaction within Russia," he said.

If that happens, he added, not only world borders go up to separate Russia's ethnic groups, but Russia's external borders might be threatened.

Mr. Rutskoi is in hospital recovering from an operation on his spine. Radio Russia reported Friday.

Mr. Rutskoi's press spokesman Nikolai Gulbinsky confirmed the former air force officer was in hospital, but would not say why.

Mr. Rutskoi was quoted in Thursday's Pravda newspaper as saying he was undergoing his first full medical check-up in three years.

Radio Russia said that Mr. Rutskoi was expected to be released in a few days and was scheduled to attend the founding conference on Feb. 8-9 of a new centre-right political organisation.

Mr. Rutskoi, several other Russian leaders and newspapers like Pravda have gradually been merging into an opposition movement to voice concerns of Russians whose living standards are falling under Mr. Yeltsin's tough economic reforms and to promote a unified Russia.

Cheney hints of anti-missile cooperation with new Commonwealth

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has suggested the United States might cooperate with former Soviet republics on anti-missile defences but said it was too early to predict any such agreement.

He told reporters he expected missile defence to be among arms issues discussed Saturday when Russia's President Boris Yeltsin meets President George Bush. Mr. Cheney will attend the meeting.

Mr. Yeltsin publicly called on the United States Wednesday to agree to a joint deployment of anti-missile defences. The Pentagon has been working for years towards possible deployment of a system to destroy missiles in flight.

"I'm not going to enunciate any new policy today... I want to see precisely what they have proposed and have an opportunity to discuss it with them," Mr. Cheney said when asked about the Yeltsin statement.

"Up until now, of course, we have not been prepared to go beyond fairly limited sharing, for example, in the area of early warning of missile launches."

But he told a group of reporters in his private dining room that as other nations get nuclear weapons, cold war U.S. and Soviet nuclear doctrines of mutually assured destruction "looks less and less attractive as an option, and defences take on greater significance."

"How all of that relates to the possibility of future cooperation with one or more of the republics of the Commonwealth is too soon for us to say," Mr. Cheney said.

"I can't today translate that into what might be possible in the area of strategic defences."

Mr. Cheney said he expected the talks to be fruitful in the area of further nuclear cuts proposed by Mr. Bush and Mr. Yeltsin this week.

He said the strategic arms reduction treaty (START) should be ratified this summer as a basis for any new agreement on what he called "START-2."

"I don't think it (START-2) has to be the kind of elaborate Kabuki dance that produced START. That was an effort that lasted about nine years. I think we can probably move much more rapidly than that, assuming

there's good faith on both sides," Mr. Cheney said.

Responding to statements by Mr. Yeltsin and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev that Russia would no longer aim its missiles at U.S. targets, Mr. Cheney said he had no way of confirming that — and refused to say whether the United States would reciprocate.

"Clearly there is no independent means by which you can verify that," he said. "A missile in a silo could be pointed at anything within its range and there's simply no way for us to know by our own independent means whether or not that targeting change has, in fact, taken place."

Mr. Cheney said that if any such agreement on targeting was arrived at, it would have to be verifiable.

"We've never discussed precisely what we target. We don't plan to change that. But I think we've demonstrated implicitly, the president has in his leadership, and we are prepared to change the way we do business in the nuclear area."

Georgia reportedly to restore monarchy

MADRID (R) — Georgia will restore a monarchy this year and offer the throne to Irakli Bagration, descendant of the royal family deposed in 1801, Spain's El Pais newspaper said Friday.

Reporting from Moscow, the daily quoted two Georgian political leaders as saying they would travel next week to Spain with the intention of bringing Bagration to Tbilisi.

"Our mission consists of meeting the Bagration family, and bringing the heir to the throne to Tbilisi," said Georgy Chanturia, leader of the National Democratic Party.

It had been expected that if any attempt to restore the monarchy were made, the job would go to

Jorge Bagration, 46, who said earlier this month he would be willing to return if this was the will of the Georgian people.

"Jorge has language difficulties and has not been prepared to be king," said Temur Zhorzheliani, head of the Monarchist Party.

He said the throne would therefore be offered to 19-year-old Irakli, Jorge's eldest son who is studying in the United States, according to El Pais. If he accepted, the would be crowned before the end of the year, said Mr. Chanturia.

A council of regents would be set up to advise the new monarch, including Mr. Chanturia and Mr. Zhorzheliani, who did not rule out former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, a Georgian, forming part of this

body. Ilya II, patriarch of the Georgian Orthodox Church, and members of the Bagration family would also take part.

The two envoys, who El Pais said were backed by the ruling Military Council and the provisional government, would remain in Madrid a week. They would bring letters from Patriarch Ilya to King Juan Carlos and the Bagration family explaining their proposals.

The Georgian monarchy fell 190 years ago when the country was annexed by the Russian Empire. Many of the Bagration family have settled in Spain and Jorge, who has Spanish nationality, lives and works in the southern resort of Marbella.

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